Cover Design : Mitsuko Watanabe

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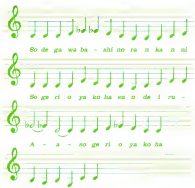
Sent to live in the country with her grandmother after her parents' separation, young girl Miyori spends most of her time daydreaming to escape her harsh reality. When she sets foot into her new home's nearby forest, she encounters a series of curiosities: a tree struck by lightning, but still yielding new blossoms; the inexplicable appearance of a tiger. . . . Could this be a forest of spirits?

Sogeri's Song

Words by Hideji Oda
Composed by Ayumi Suzuki

Sogeri Pop and Sogeri Tai
Live atop the bridgeway
And whether together
or whether they're not,
They always shout, "Hogeee!"



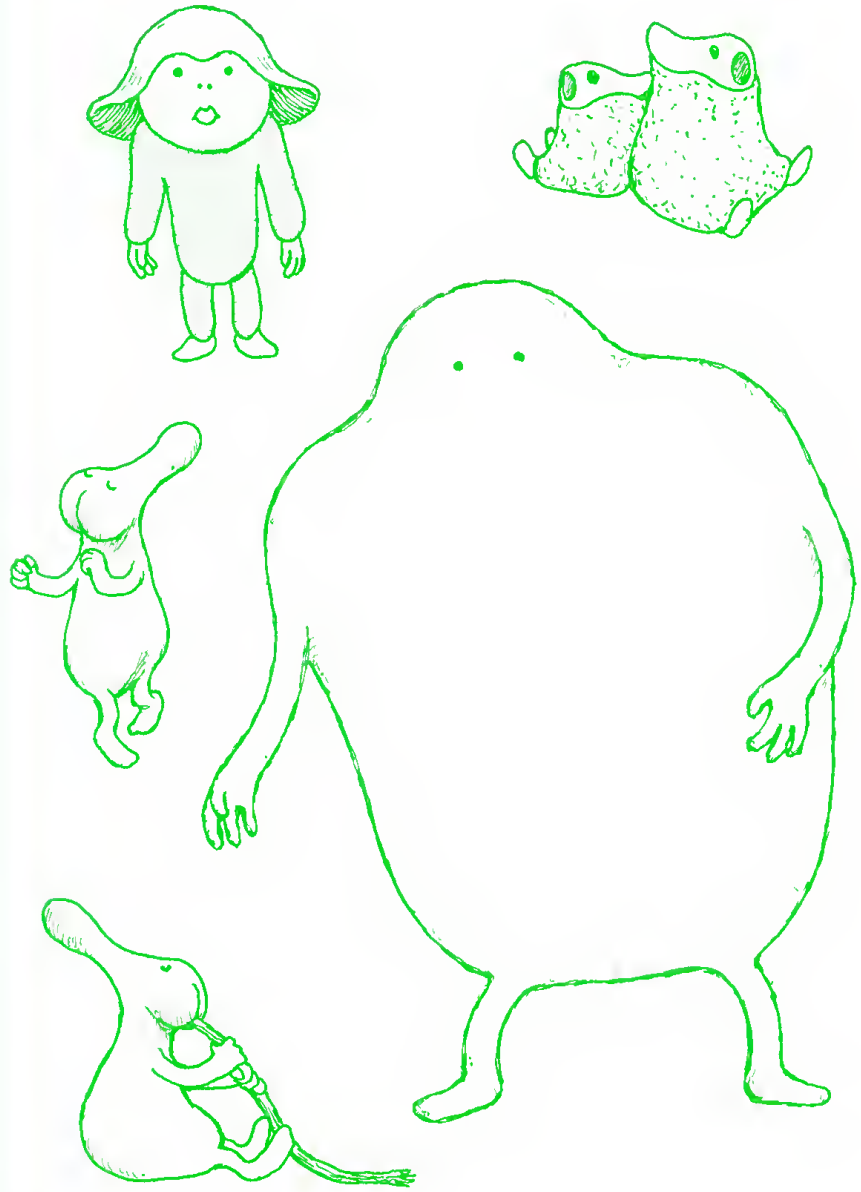
Translation
FINGERSMALOY
Cleaning & Retouch
DILLE
Editing
THE ANTAGONIST
Lettering
NOMAD SOUL

Miyori's Forest

Hideji Oda

Miyori's Forest Hideji Oda

Akita Shoten



Miyori's Forest

Miyori's Forest

Hideji Oda

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Miyori Abandoned

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I, Forest Guardian

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Boom-ba-boom Boom-ba-boom

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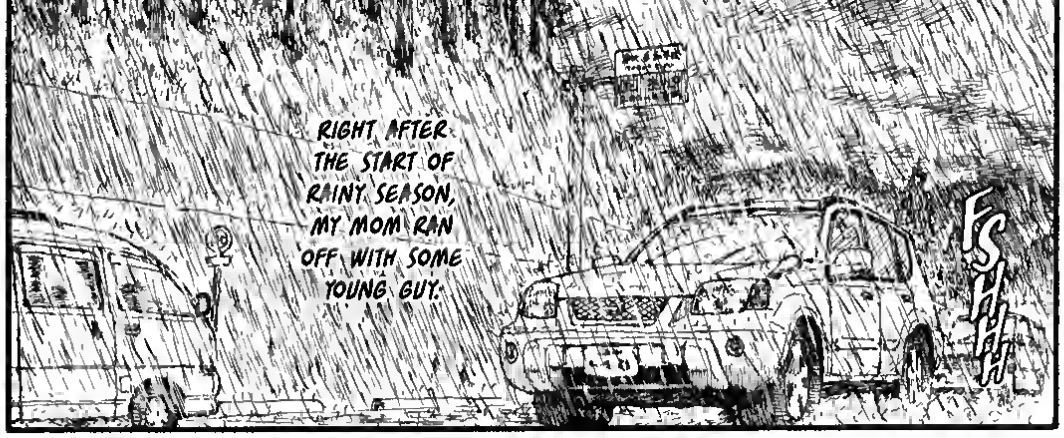
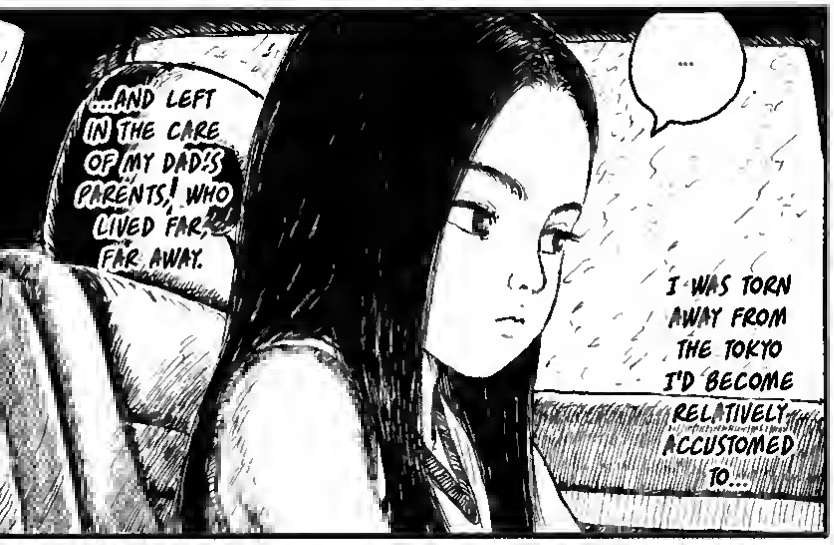
Story 7 *p147*
Led by an Unseen Power

Last Story *p171*
Miyori Calls Upon the Wind

An Extra Story *p195*
The Inner Depths of Miyori's Forest


RIGHT AFTER THE START OF RAINY SEASON, MY MOM RAN OFF WITH SOME YOUNG GUY.
FSHHH

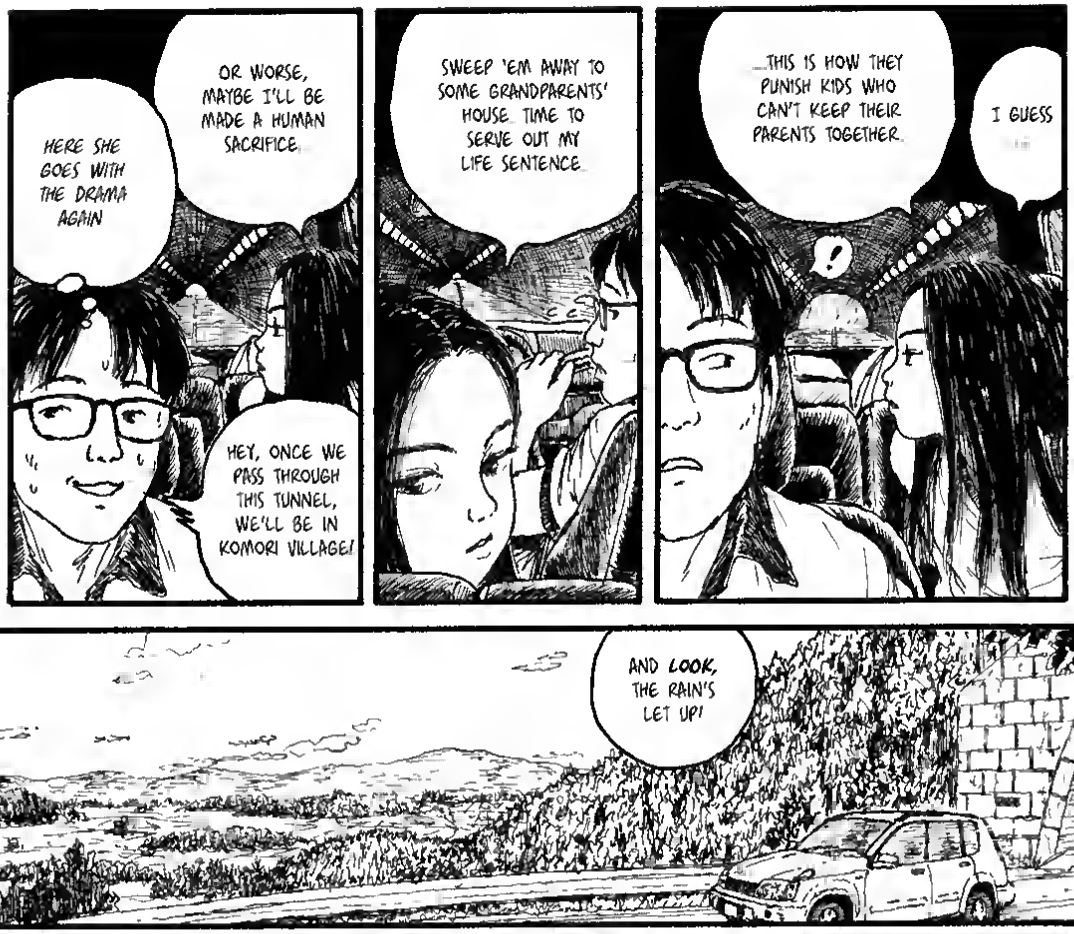

...AND LEFT IN THE CARE OF MY DAD'S PARENTS, WHO LIVED FAR, FAR AWAY.
...
I WAS TORN AWAY FROM THE TOKYO I'D BECOME RELATIVELY ACCUSTOMED TO...

WE'LL BE THERE SOON, HONEY.
I WANT YOU TO GIVE A PROPER GREETING, OKAY?

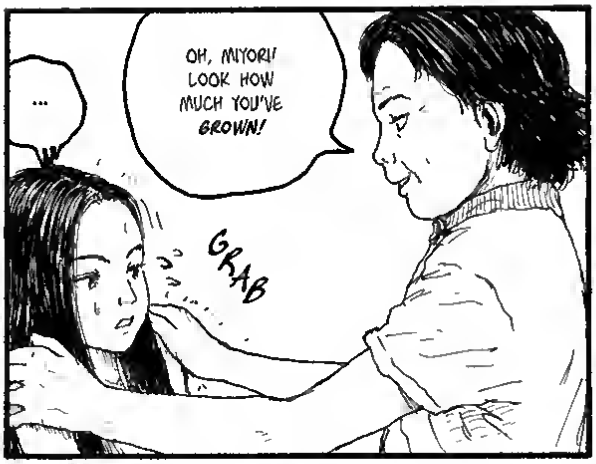
THEY DO ALWAYS SAY CHILDREN ARE THE GLUE THAT KEEPS A HUSBAND AND WIFE TOGETHER.
WHOO

CAN'T YOU JUST PRETEND A LITTLE?
GIVE ME A LITTLE CONFIDENCE, HERE.
...

FSHHH
I WONDER IF MOM WOULDN'T HAVE ABANDONED ME IF I'D JUST BEEN A SWEET, OBEDIENT LITTLE GIRL.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN I GUESS I'M PARTLY RESPONSIBLE.

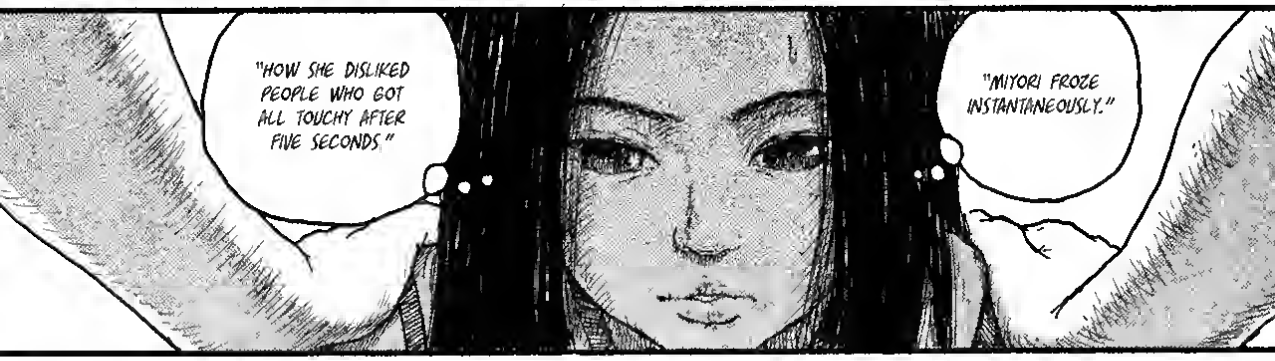

HEY, ONCE WE PASS THROUGH THIS TUNNEL, WE'LL BE IN KOMORI VILLAGE!
HERE SHE GOES WITH THE DRAMA AGAIN
OR WORSE, MAYBE I'LL BE MADE A HUMAN SACRIFICE.
SWEEP 'EM AWAY TO SOME GRANDPARENTS' HOUSE. TIME TO SERVE OUT MY LIFE SENTENCE.
...THIS IS HOW THEY PUNISH KIDS WHO CAN'T KEEP THEIR PARENTS TOGETHER.
I GUESS
!
AND LOOK, THE RAIN'S LET UP!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
WHY COULDN'T WE HAVE GONE TO THE BEACH INSTEAD?
LOOKS LIKE RAINY SEASON MIGHT BE ENDING ALREADY.
...

Story 1
Miyori Abandoned


OH, MIYORI! LOOK HOW MUCH YOU'VE GROWN!
...
GRAB

...
WHAT ARE YOU, A SIXTH GRADER NOW?

HA... THATCHED ROOF
YOU SURE GOT HERE QUICK

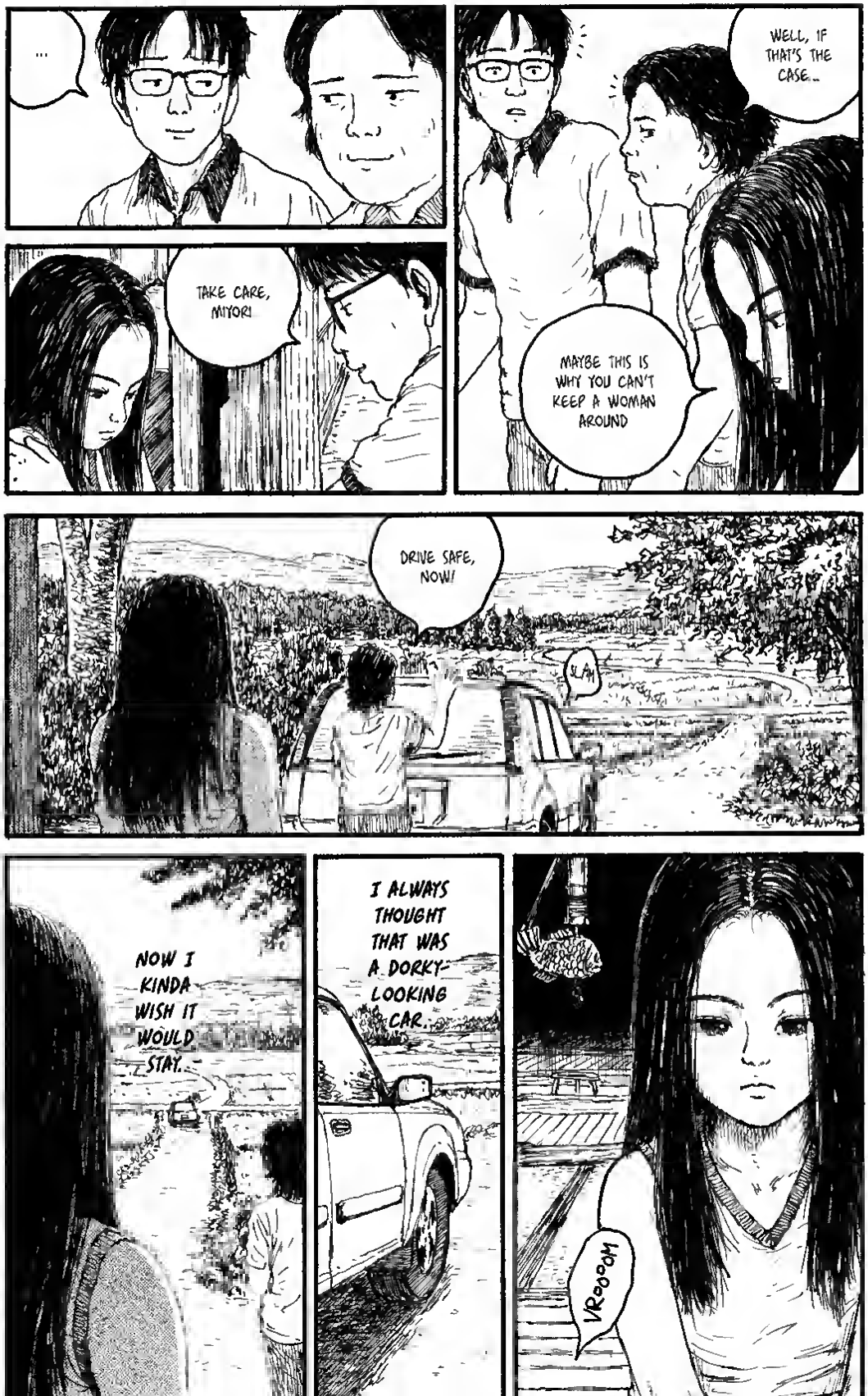

"HOW SHE DISLIKED PEOPLE WHO GOT ALL TOUCHY AFTER FIVE SECONDS."
"MIYORI FROZE INSTANTANEOUSLY."

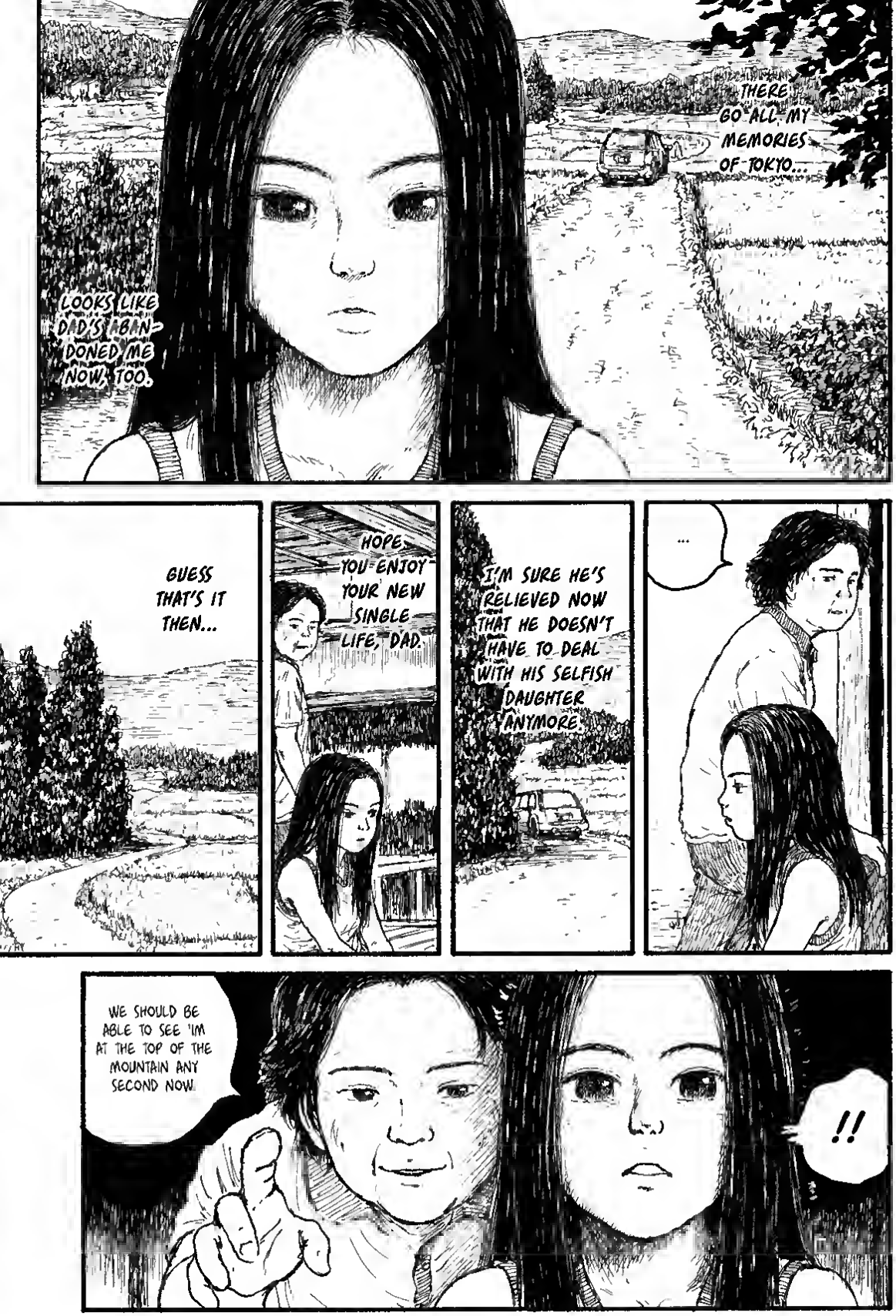
OH, MY...
IT'S... NICE... TO MEET YOU.
AH, NO WONDER.

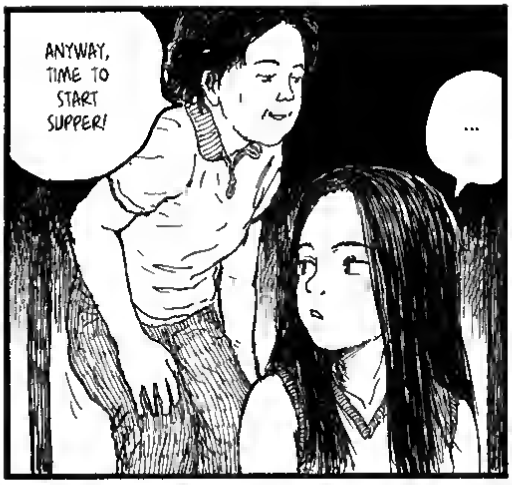
UM... MIYORI?
C'MON, HONEY...
MMBL MMBL

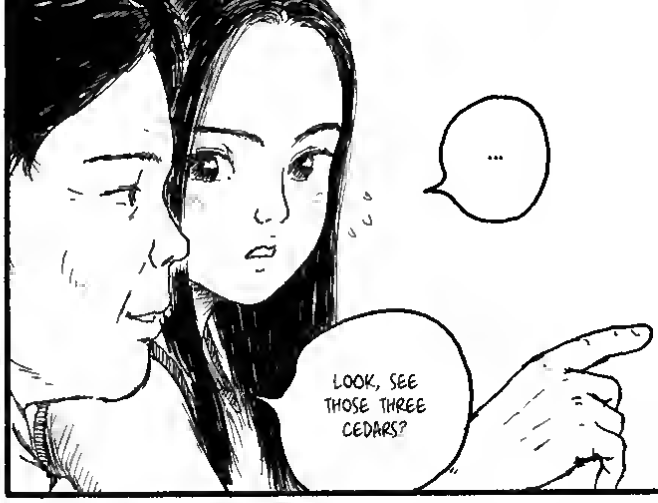
...

HUH. SO THIS ISN'T MY FIRST TIME.
NOW COME IN AND REST FOR A BIT, WON'T YOU?
MIYORI, WE BROUGHT YOU HERE A FEW TIMES WHEN YOU WERE JUST A TYKE.
SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER, I GUESS
YOU DID?
YOU WERE ABOUT THIIIS BIG BACK THEN.
...
YOU CAN'T STAY HERE FOR ONE NIGHT?
I'M MAKING THAT BAMBOO RICE YOU LIKE SO MUCH
I'VE GOT A MEETING IN THE MORNING, SO...
WHAT, YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?!
SORRY, BUT I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE
...
I'M A LITTLE WORRIED ABOUT THIS ONE
I TELL YOU WHAT I'LL COME BY AT THE END OF THE MONTH


...
WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE...
TAKE CARE, MIYORI
MAYBE THIS IS WHY YOU CAN'T KEEP A WOMAN AROUND
DRIVE SAFE, NOW!
SLAM
NOW I KINDA WISH IT WOULD STAY...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WAS A DORKY-LOOKING CAR...
VROOOOM


LOOKS LIKE DAD'S ABANDONED ME NOW, TOO.
THERE GO ALL MY MEMORIES OF TOKYO...
GUESS THAT'S IT THEN...
HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR NEW SINGLE LIFE, DAD.
I'M SURE HE'S RELIEVED NOW THAT HE DOESN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH HIS SELFISH DAUGHTER ANYMORE.
...
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE 'IM AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN ANY SECOND NOW.
!!


ANYWAY, TIME TO START SUPPER!
...


...
LOOK, SEE THOSE THREE CEDARS?

HEY.

JUST TO THE RIGHT OF THAT.

BYE-BYE, ME.

BOAR! I TELL YA, HE NEVER CATCHES ANYTHING AND HE NEVER LEARNS!

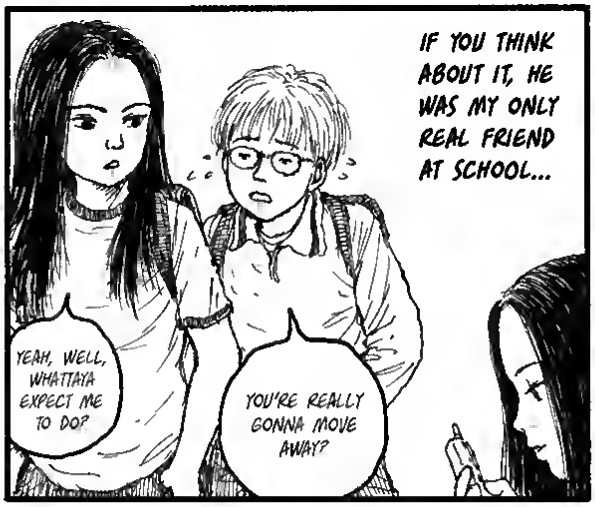
HUNTING?
UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S OUT HUNTING!
IF ONLY YOUR GRAMPA WERE STILL HERE.

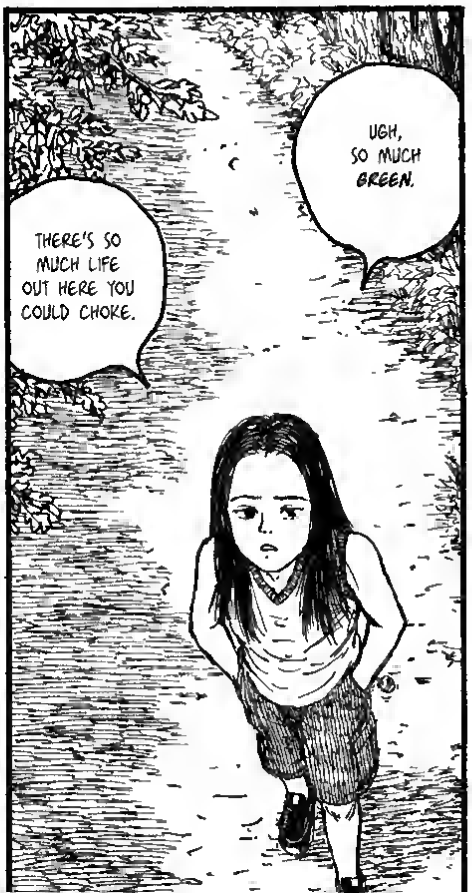
GONNA GO?
UM... NO, I...
SIGH...
IT'S STILL LIGHT OUT, SO WHY DON'T YOU RUN ALONG AND PLAY IN THE WOODS OUT BACK?
IN THE WOODS?
"ALMOST"?
NOW, NOW, THEY ALMOST NEVER SHOW UP ANYMORE.
BETTER PUT THIS ON IF YOU'RE GOING...
LIKE... FOR BEARS?!
ting-a-ling
MAKE SURE YOU SAY HELLO TO ANYONE YOU SEE! TELL 'EM YOU'RE FROM TOKYO!
AND DON'T GO TOO FAR OFF THE PATH, SWEETIE!
BUT LOTSA PEOPLE LIVE OUT IN THOSE WOODS, SEE...
DON'T WANT YOU JUST WALTZING IN AND STARTLING EVERYBODY, DO WE?

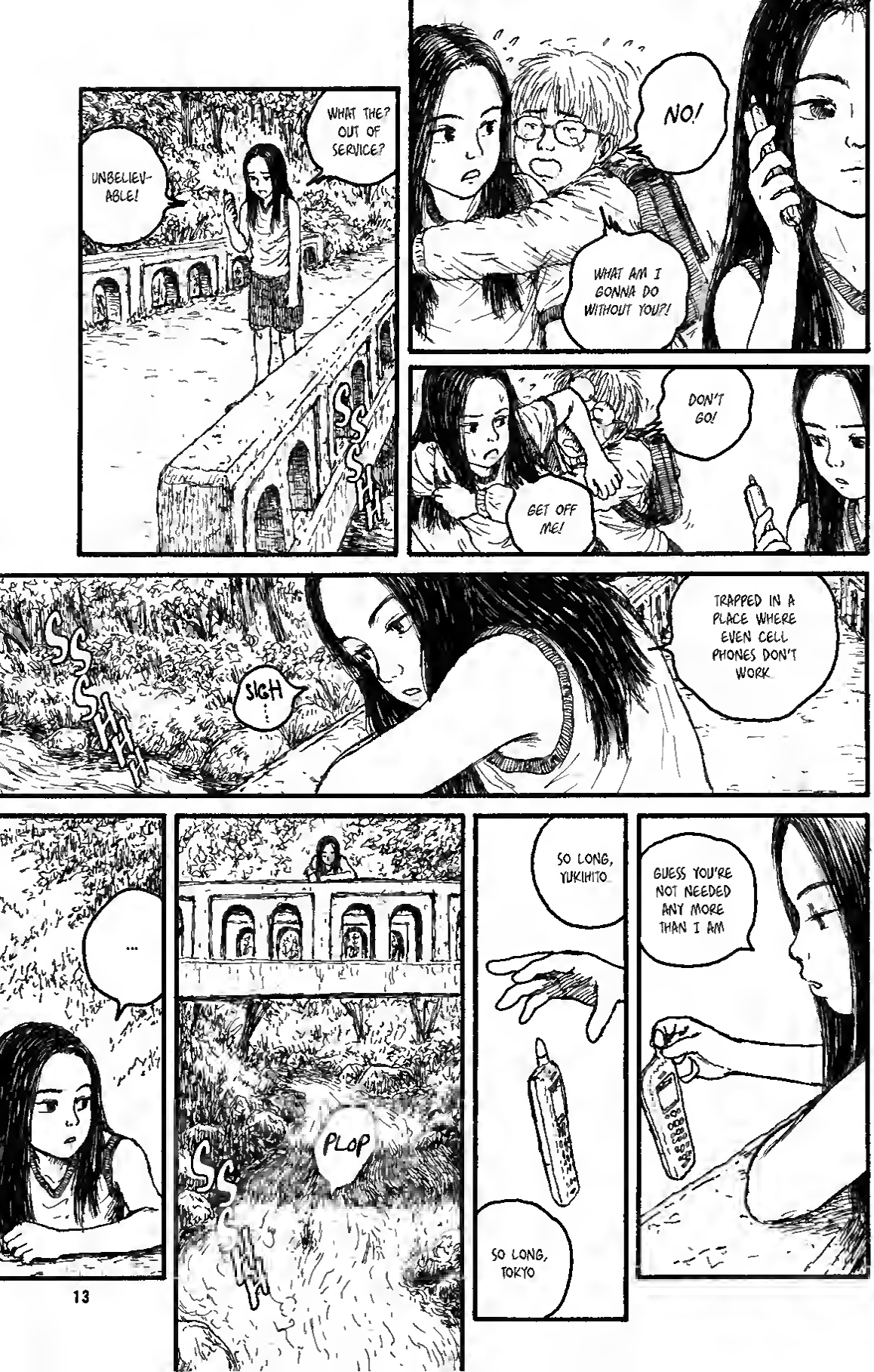
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO IN THE WOODS?

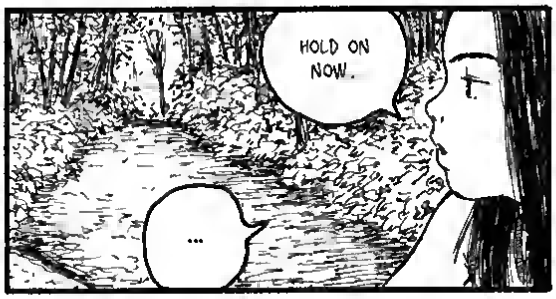
I SHOULD JUST CALL YUKIHITO!
EVEN IF HE IS A PATHETIC DORK...

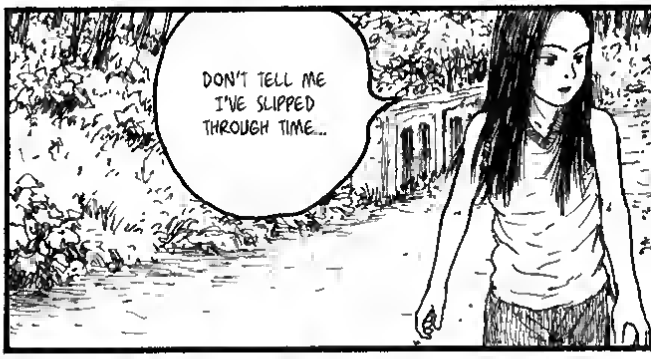
OH YEAH


IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, HE WAS MY ONLY REAL FRIEND AT SCHOOL...
YEAH, WELL, WHATTAYA EXPECT ME TO DO?
YOU'RE REALLY GONNA MOVE AWAY?

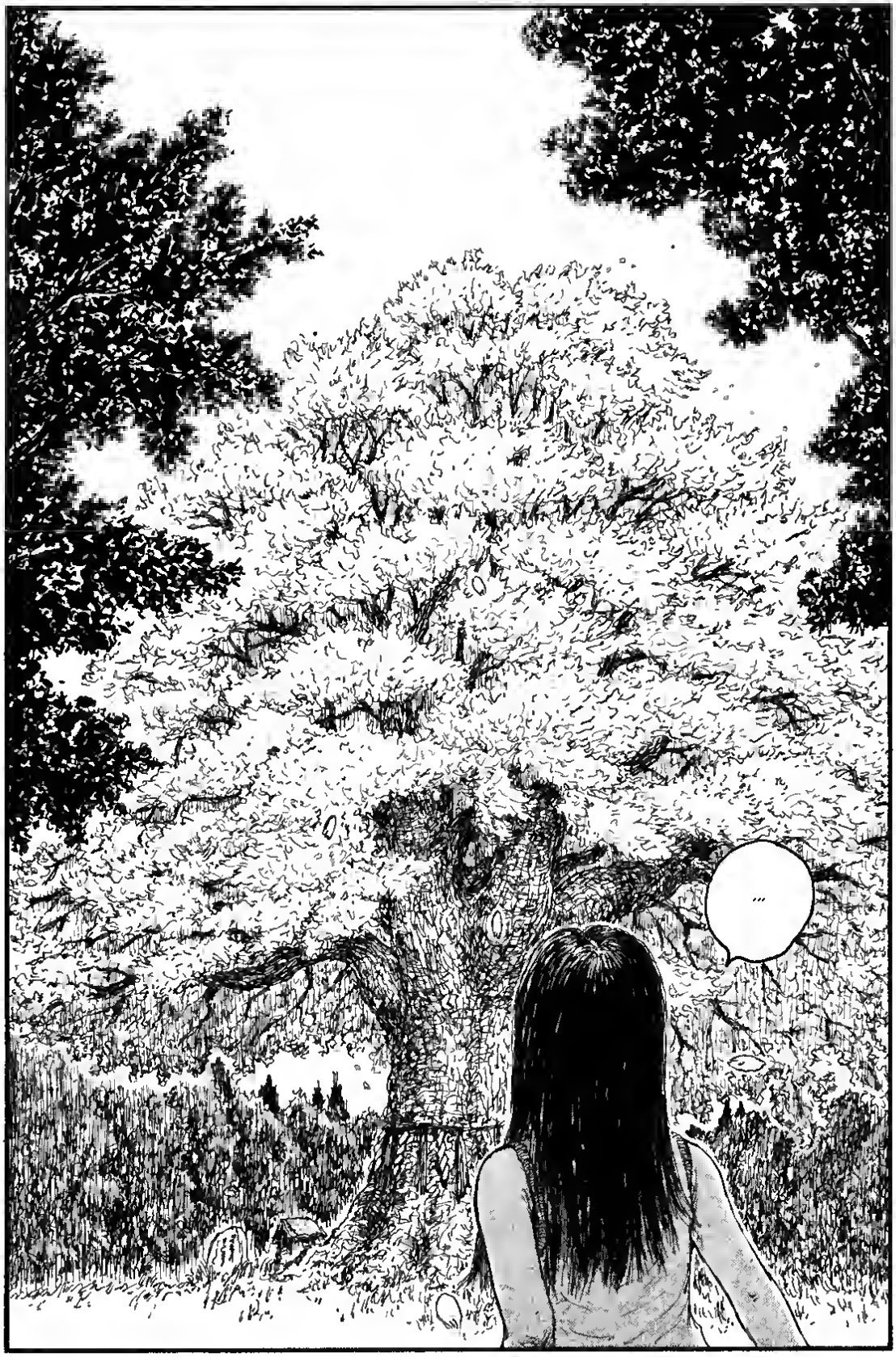

UGH, SO MUCH GREEN.
THERE'S SO MUCH LIFE OUT HERE YOU COULD CHOKE.

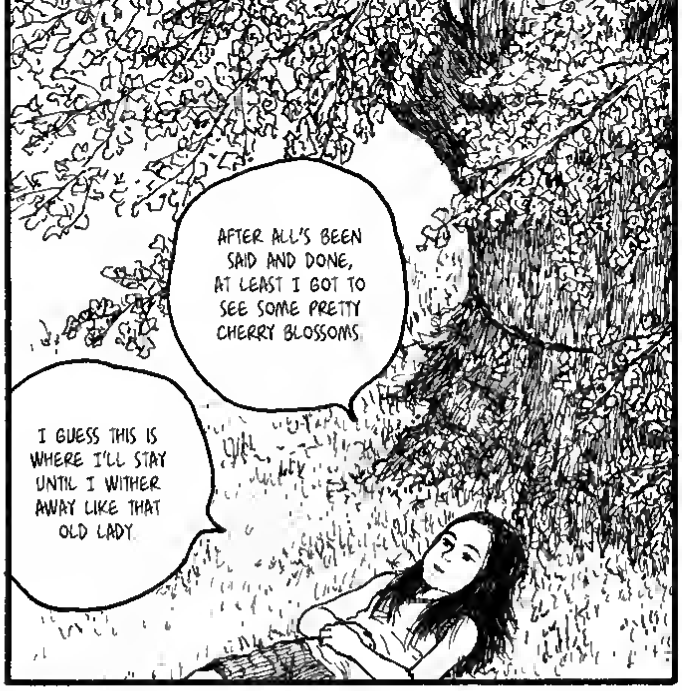

NO!
WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITHOUT YOU?!
DON'T GO!
GET OFF ME!
WHAT THE? OUT OF SERVICE?
UNBELIEV-ABLE!
SSSSH
TRAPPED IN A PLACE WHERE EVEN CELL PHONES DON'T WORK
SIGH...
SSSSH
...
PLOP
SS
SO LONG, YUKIHITO
SO LONG, TOKYO
GUESS YOU'RE NOT NEEDED ANY MORE THAN I AM





*A period of Japanese history (1603-1868)




AFTER ALL'S BEEN SAID AND DONE, AT LEAST I GOT TO SEE SOME PRETTY CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
I GUESS THIS IS WHERE I'LL STAY UNTIL I WITHER AWAY LIKE THAT OLD LADY.

THIS IS ACTUALLY PRETTY AWESOME.

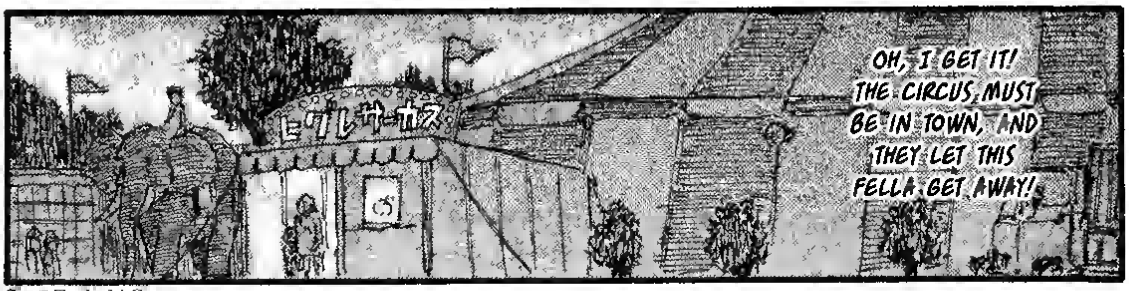
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!
IS THIS FOR *REAL*?!

WAIT... CHERRY BLOSSOMS AREN'T EVEN IN *SEASON*.

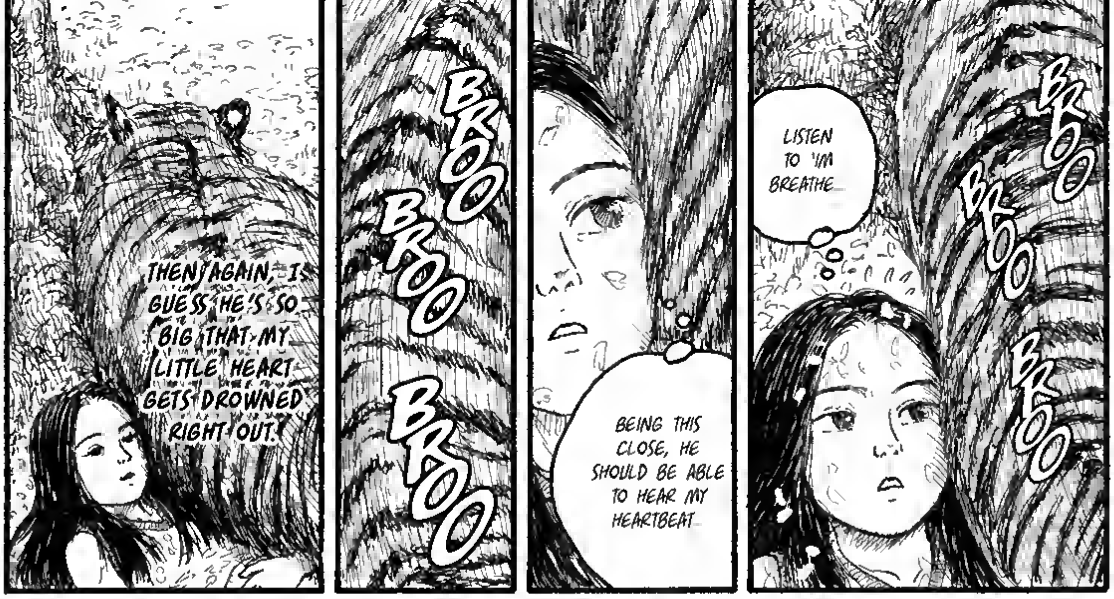
WHAT THE?!

SO THIS IS WHAT YOU GET WHEN YOU COME TO THE MOUNTAINS

WOW, I'M LIKE MEDUSA!
I'LL USE MY DARK POWER TO WIPE OUT ALL MANKIND! MWAHAHAHA!
LOOKS LIKE MY NEGATIVE ENERGY MADE ALL THE BLOSSOMS FALL OFF
...
WOULD'VE PREFERRED TO BE EATEN BY A LION THOUGH.
OR BETTER YET, A BENGAL TIGER.
PAD
PAD
OH MY GOD... IT'S A BEAR!
...
PAUSE
PAD
"NEW KOMORI VILLAGE RESIDENT MIYORI MASHIMA (11), ORIGINALLY FROM TOKYO, DIED AFTER BEING ATTACKED BY A BEAR YESTERDAY..."
GUESS THAT'S LIFE...
PAD
PAD



Sign: Twilight Circus

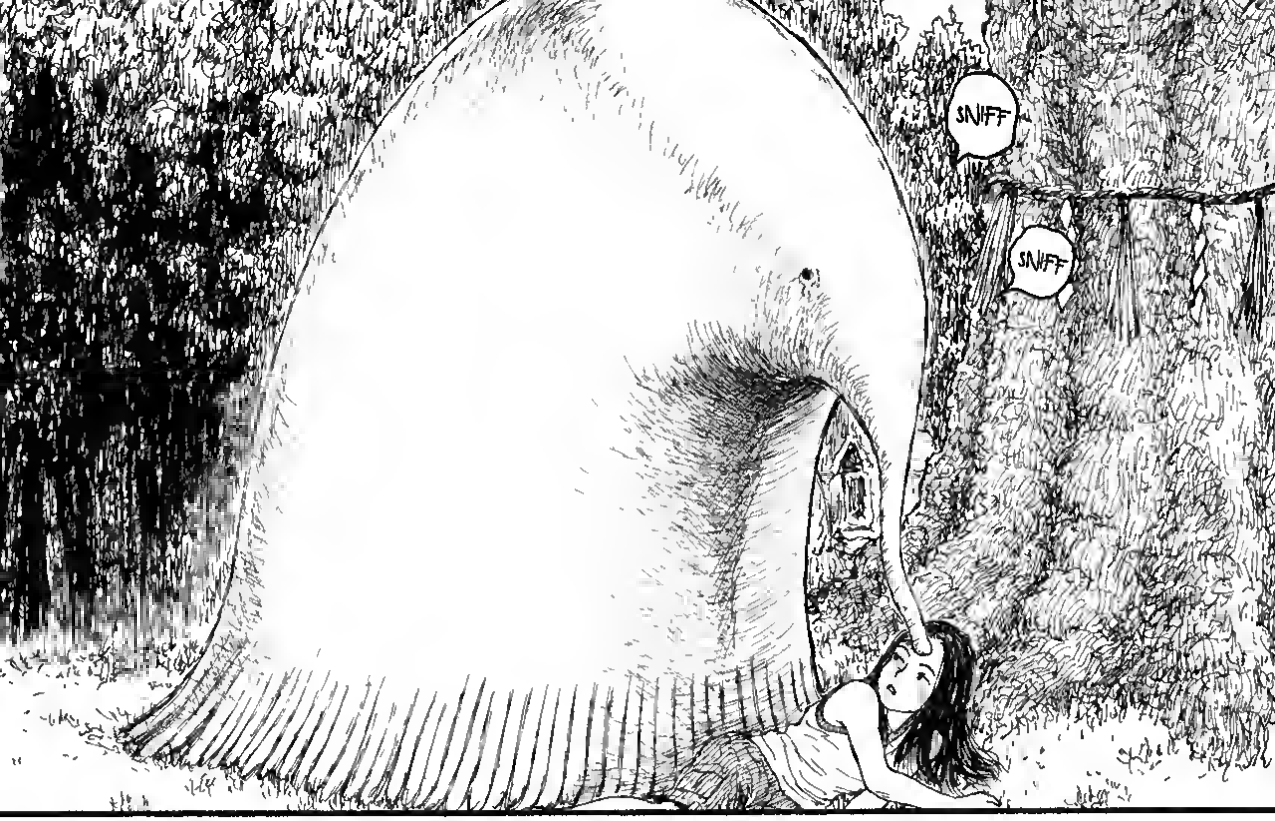

THEN AGAIN, I GUESS HE'S SO BIG THAT MY LITTLE HEART GETS DROWNED RIGHT OUT.
BROO
BROO
BROO
BEING THIS CLOSE, HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HEAR MY HEARTBEAT.
LISTEN TO 'M BREATHE.
BROO
BROO
BROO

WHY DOES THIS FEEL SO FAMILIAR?
THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGELY CALMING ABOUT THIS SOUND...
BROO
BROO
BROO
BROO

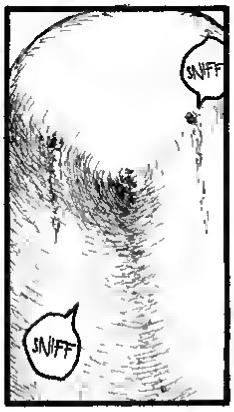
MIYORI.
NNN
MIYORI.

"SNATCHED HER"...
YEAH. YOUR AFTER-SCHOOL TUTOR SNATCHED HER AWAY.
HEH HEH...
WHAT? LIKE, WITH ANOTHER MAN?
MIYORI...
YOUR MOTHER'S RUN OFF.
YOU ASSHOLE!
BANG
IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?!
THAT'S WHY SHE RAN AWAY FROM YOU, YOU...
TIWAM
!
!
SPLUTCH

I'VE NEVER HAD A MOTHER!
BANG
BANG
YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER!
MIYORI...
MIYORI, LISTEN TO YOUR MOTHER...
I...
I...
I WAS BORN WITHOUT PARENTS!
I'M NOBODY'S CHILD!
BANG
BANG
BANG
BANG
I'M NOT...
SNIFF
SNIFF
...


SNIFF
SNIFF

SNIFF
...
crawl
crawl


SNIFF
SNIFF

POP

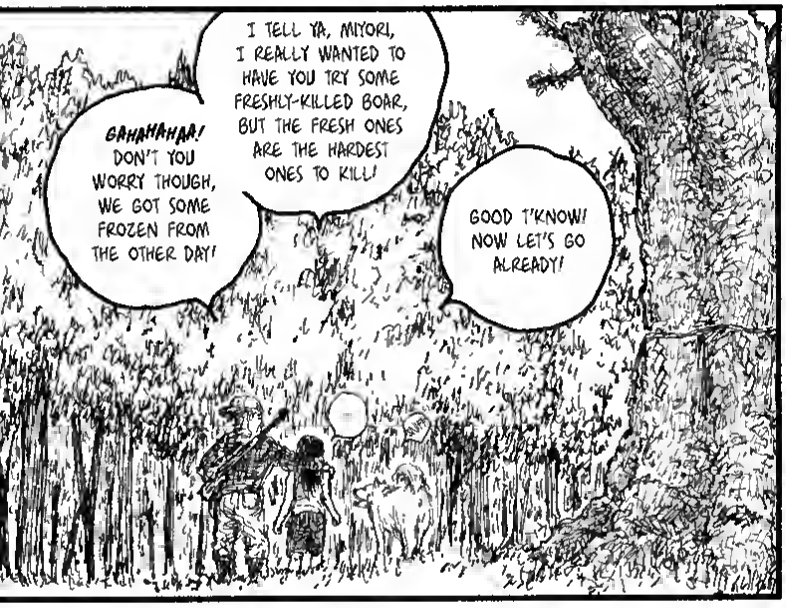
HUH?!

IS THAT MIYORI?
WELL HOW 'BOUT THAT.
WOOF

RSSSTL

JUST NOW, THERE WAS... UM
UM . I...
LOOK HOW BIG YOU GOT.
haff haff

YOU REMEMBER HER, EH, KURO?!
WOOF
OH.


I TELL YA, MIYORI, I REALLY WANTED TO HAVE YOU TRY SOME FRESHLY-KILLED BOAR, BUT THE FRESH ONES ARE THE HARDEST ONES TO KILL!
GAHAHAHAA! DON'T YOU WORRY THOUGH, WE GOT SOME FROZEN FROM THE OTHER DAY!
GOOD T'KNOW! NOW LET'S GO ALREADY!

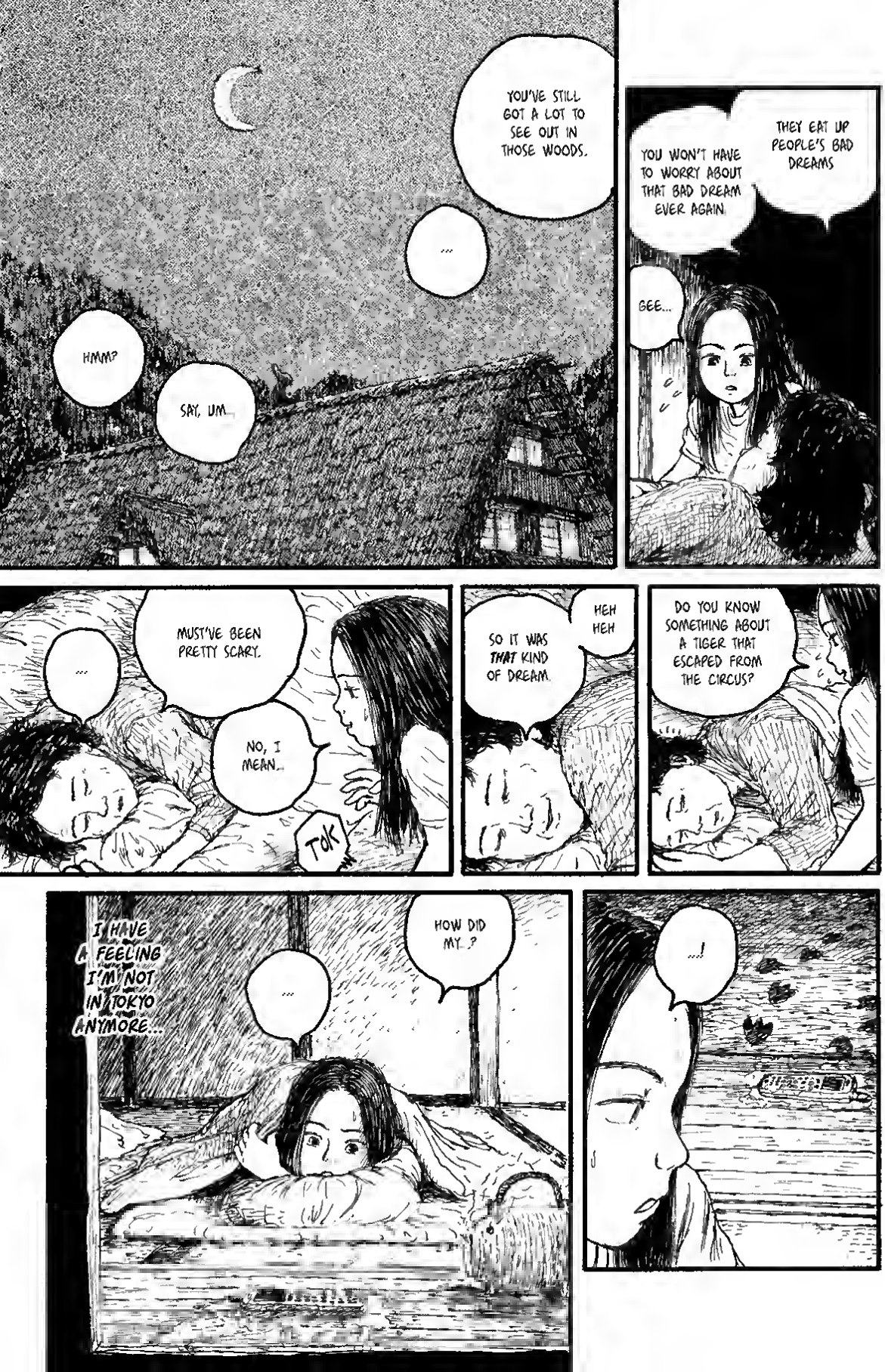
OH, SHUCKS, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE NOT MIYORI
NO, SIR, I AM.
haff haff

GA HA HA HA
HARD TO SAY?!
...

HARD TO SAY...

SO HOW'S IT TASTE? PRETTY GOOD, EH?
UMM...

UM...
I WAS AT THAT BIG CHERRY TREE IN THE WOODS, AND...
SNORE
...
SO YOU COULD TELL IT WAS A CHERRY TREE, HUH?
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU'D GONE SO FAR TODAY.
I FELL ASLEEP OUT THERE, AND...
!
WHAT?
OH... NEVER MIND
IT'S A REAL SHAME, THOUGH STRUCK RIGHT IN HALF BY A BOLT OF LIGHTNING LAST YEAR.
IT USED TO BE A REAL BEAUTY, TOO.
WHAT?!
OH MY, DID YOU RUN INTO A MOGURI?
!!
...A MOGURI?
NOW, NOT TO WORRY THOSE RASCALS DON'T HAVE A MEAN BONE IN THEIR BODY

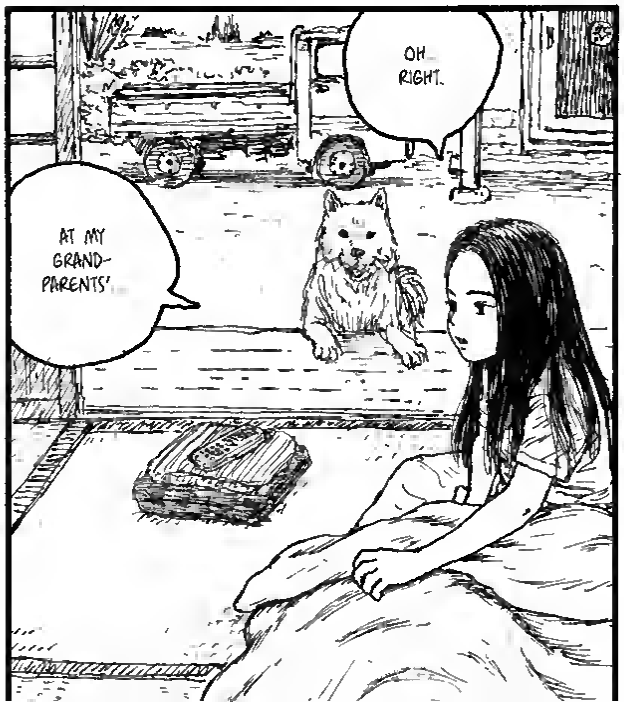

YOU'VE STILL GOT A LOT TO SEE OUT IN THOSE WOODS.
...
HMM?
SAY, UM...
THEY EAT UP PEOPLE'S BAD DREAMS
YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT BAD DREAM EVER AGAIN.
GEE...
MUST'VE BEEN PRETTY SCARY.
...
NO, I MEAN...
TAK
HEH HEH
SO IT WAS *THAT* KIND OF DREAM.
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT A TIGER THAT ESCAPED FROM THE CIRCUS?
I HAVE A FEELING I'M NOT IN TOKYO ANYMORE...
...
HOW DID MY...?
...!

Miyori Abandoned / End

Story 2
I, Forest Guardian

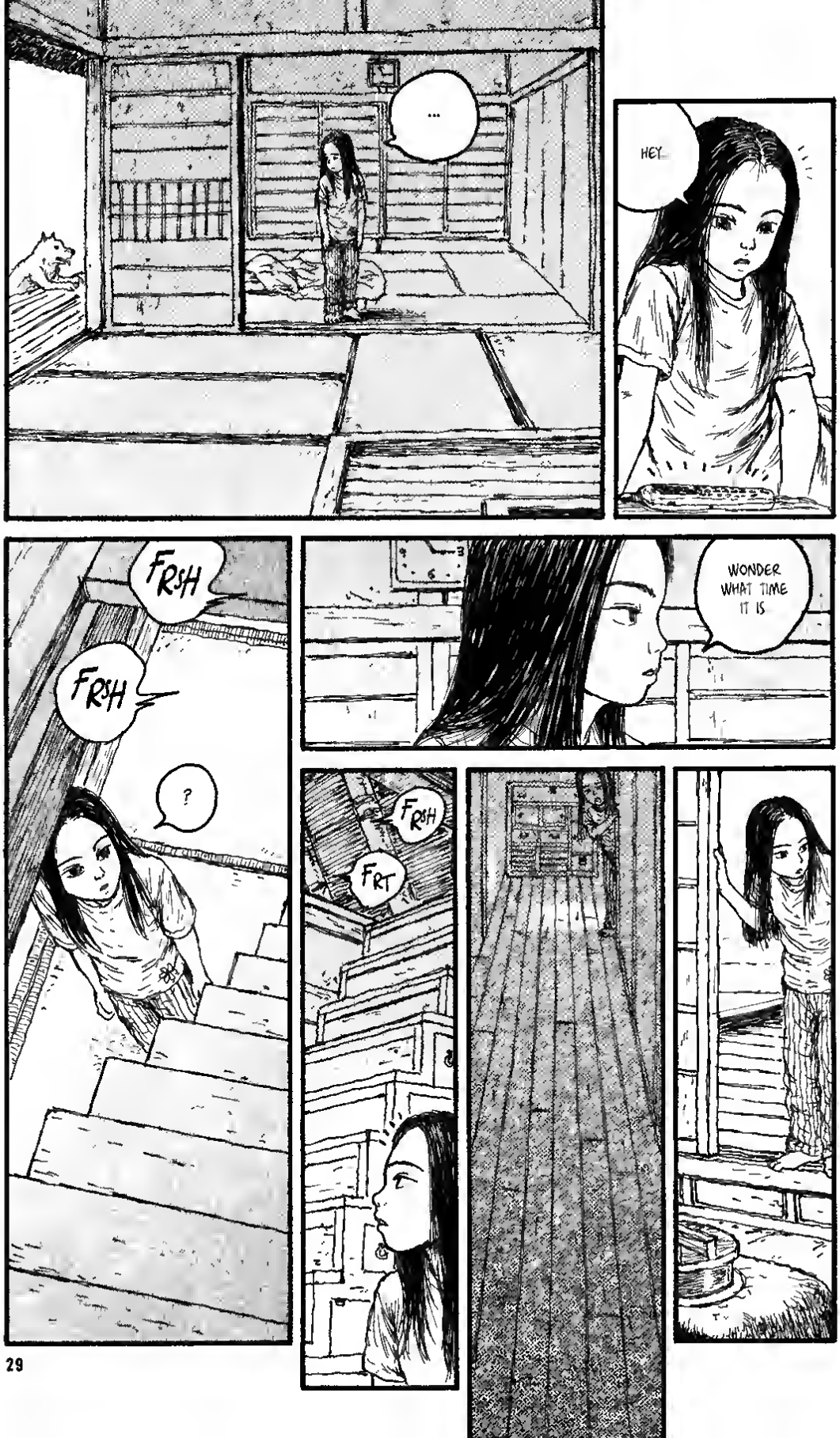
...

HM?
WHERE AM I...?

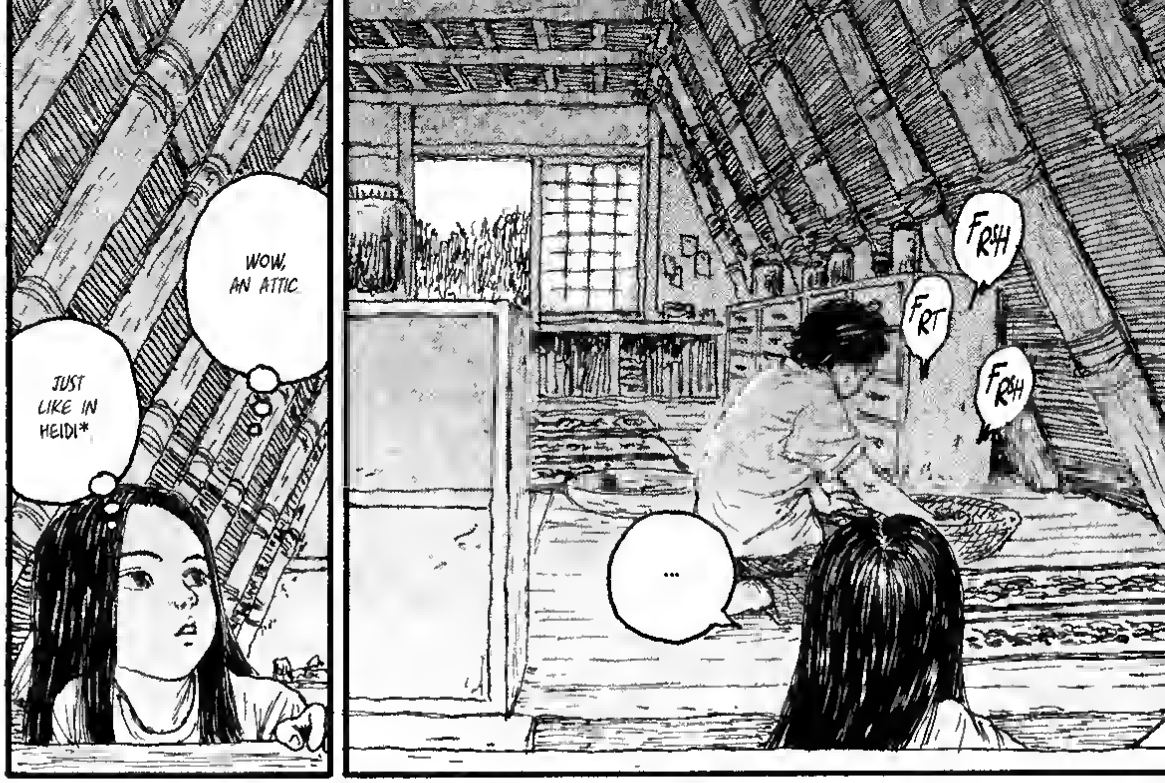

OH RIGHT.
AT MY GRAND-PARENTS'

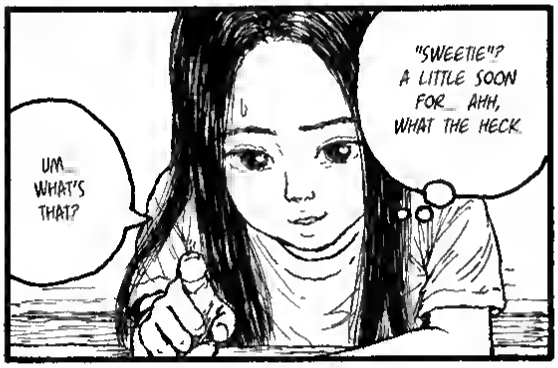
haff
haff
haff
haff

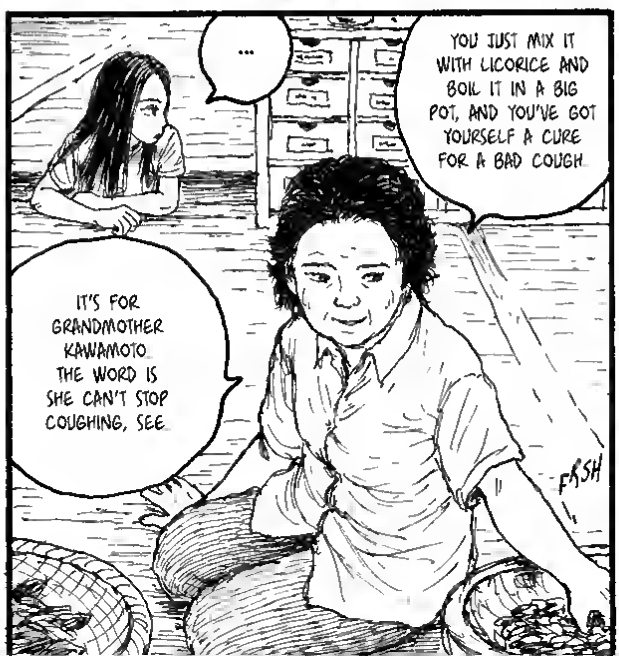
WOOF


...
HEY...
FRSH
FRSH
?
WONDER WHAT TIME IT IS
FRSH
FRT

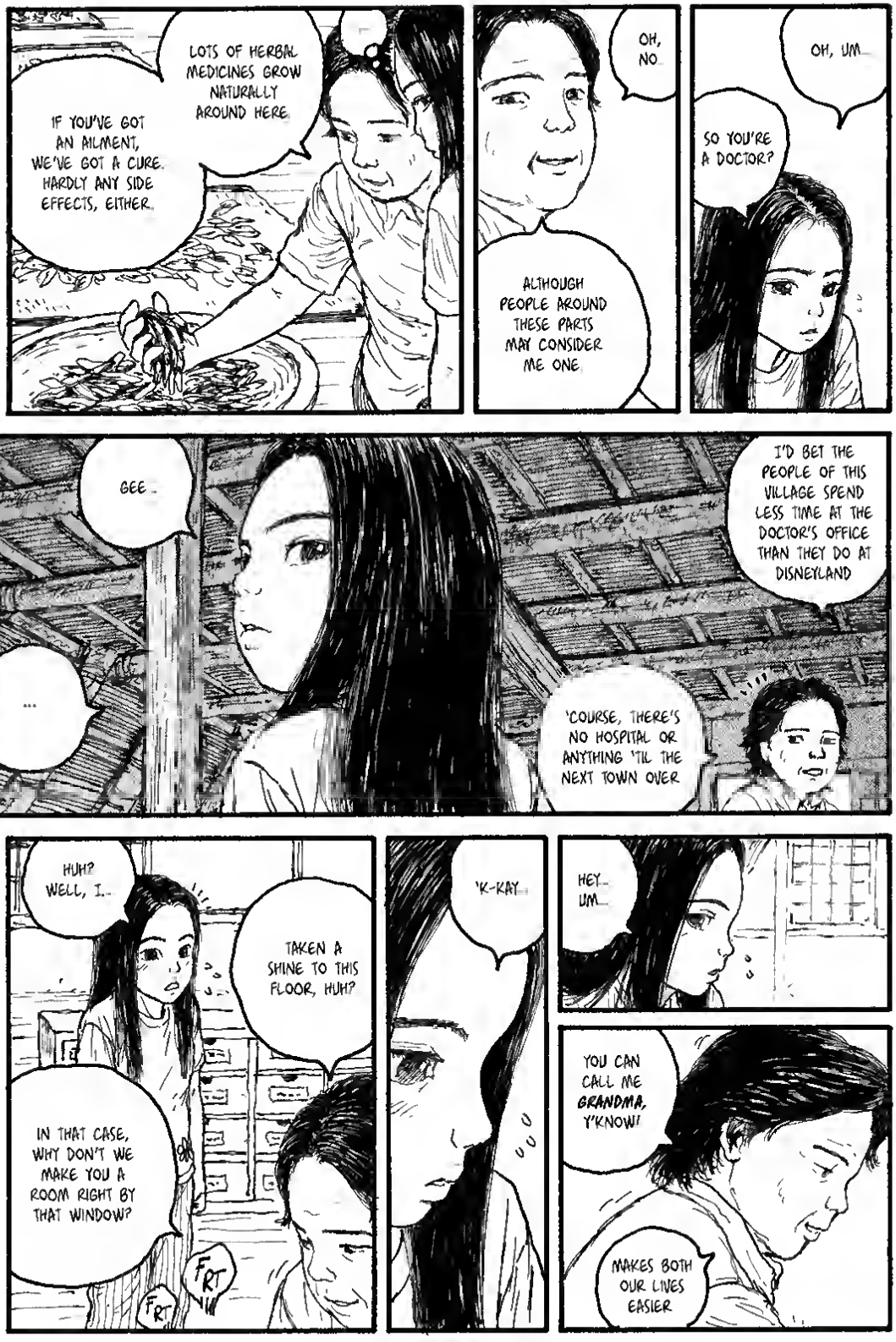
*A reference to *Heidi, Girl of the Alps*, a popular 1974 anime series based on Johanna Spyri's novel.





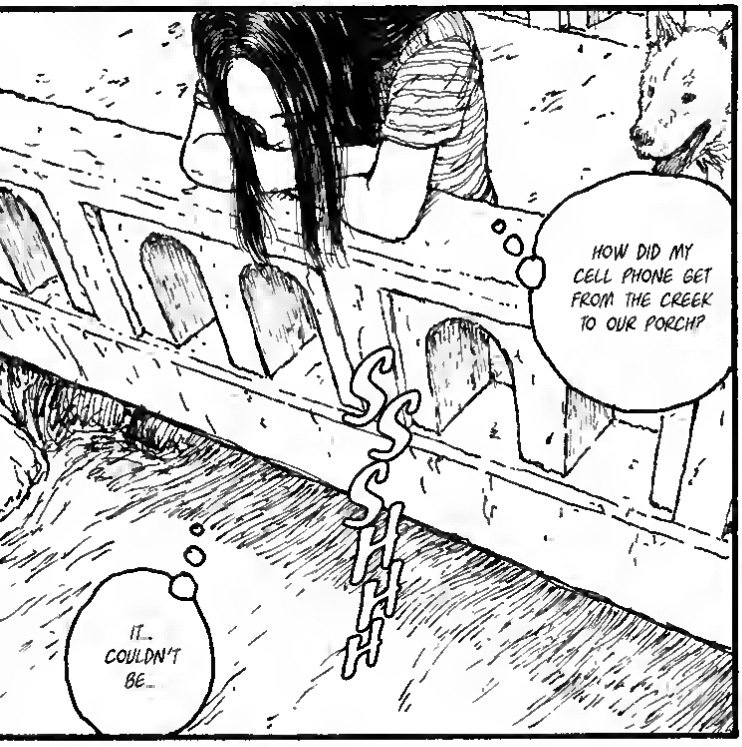

...
YOU JUST MIX IT WITH LICORICE AND BOIL IT IN A BIG POT, AND YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A CURE FOR A BAD COUGH.
IT'S FOR GRANDMOTHER KAWAMOTO. THE WORD IS SHE CAN'T STOP COUGHING, SEE.
FASH

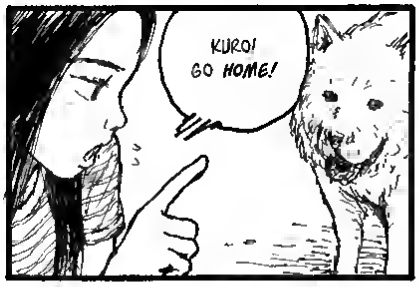
**Plantago asiatica, a.k.a. Chinese Plantain.


LOTS OF HERBAL MEDICINES GROW NATURALLY AROUND HERE.
IF YOU'VE GOT AN AILMENT, WE'VE GOT A CURE. HARDLY ANY SIDE EFFECTS, EITHER.
OH, NO.
ALTHOUGH PEOPLE AROUND THESE PARTS MAY CONSIDER ME ONE.
OH, UM...
SO YOU'RE A DOCTOR?
GEE...
...
I'D BET THE PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE SPEND LESS TIME AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE THAN THEY DO AT DISNEYLAND
'COURSE, THERE'S NO HOSPITAL OR ANYTHING 'TIL THE NEXT TOWN OVER
HUH? WELL, I...
TAKEN A SHINE TO THIS FLOOR, HUH?
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T WE MAKE YOU A ROOM RIGHT BY THAT WINDOW?
FRT
FRT
'K-KAY...
HEY... UM...
YOU CAN CALL ME GRANDMA, Y'KNOW!
MAKES BOTH OUR LIVES EASIER

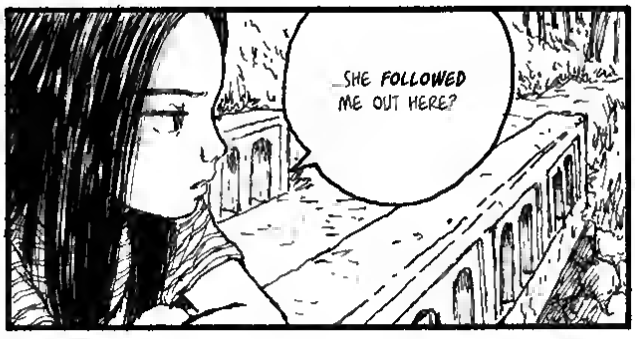
AN ATTIC BEDROOM...
ALL TO MYSELF...
...
WE CAN HAVE YOUR GRAMPAPPY BUILD A BED FOR YOU.
S-SURE...
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
DON'T YOU WANT TO EAT BREAKFAST FIRST?
LATER!
OH... I'M GOING TO THE WOODS FOR A BIT.
HUH...
THE CHERRY TREE!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

I DON'T NEED YOU, POOCH!
DON'T FOLLOW ME!
SNIFF

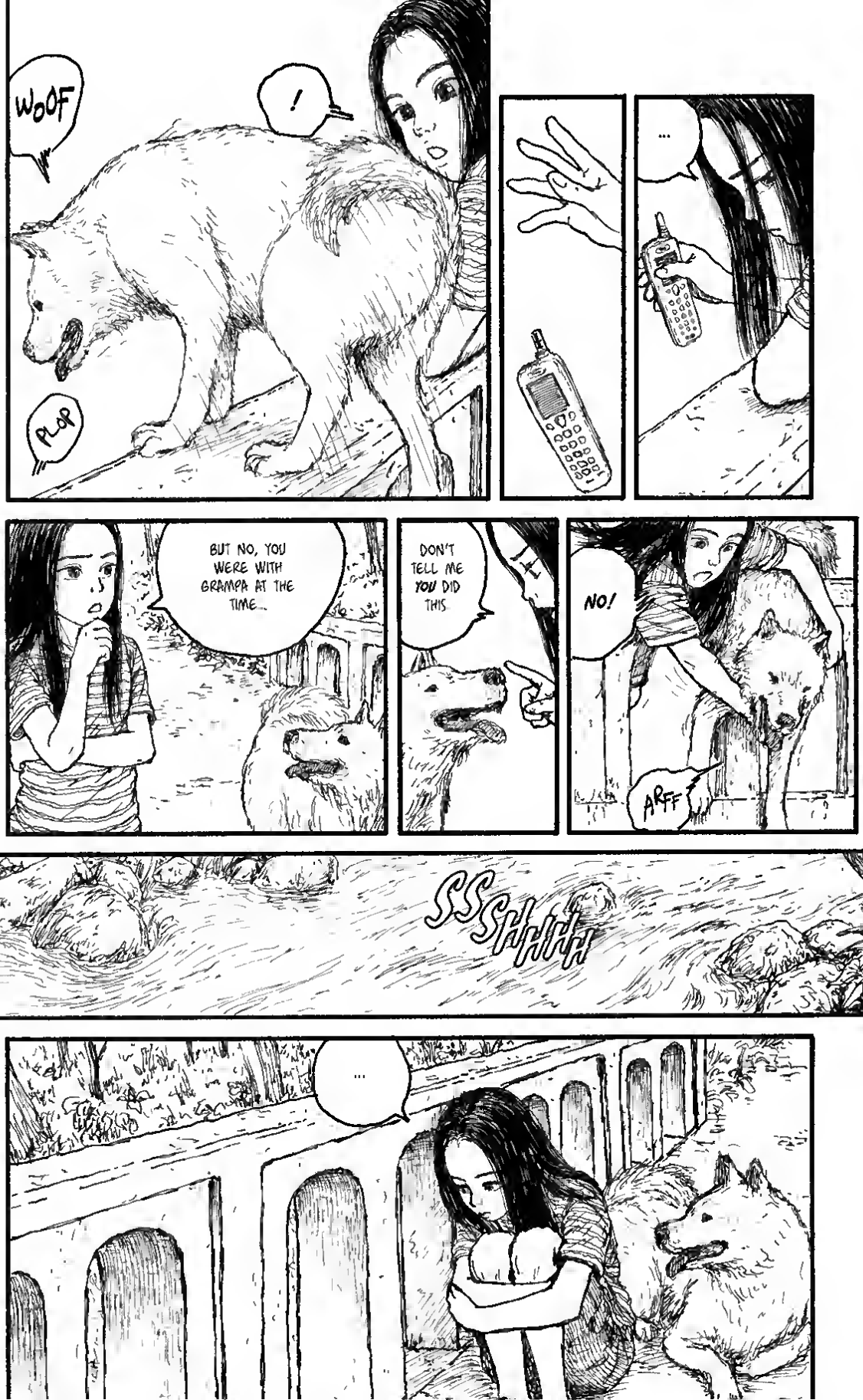

HOW DID MY CELL PHONE GET FROM THE CREEK TO OUR PORCH?
SSSHHH
IT... COULDN'T BE...


KURO! GO HOME!

WOOF


...SHE FOLLOWED ME OUT HERE?

YOU DUMB DOG!


WOOF
!
PLOP
...
BUT NO, YOU WERE WITH GRAMPA AT THE TIME...
DON'T TELL ME YOU DID THIS
NO!
ARFF
SSSHHHH
...

THE GOLD CELL PHONE OR THE SILVER CELL PHONE?
YOU THERE, WHICH ONE IS YOURS
The gold! The gold!
=PFFT=
WHOA...
MAYBE IT WAS JUST GRANDMA...
RIGHT, THE CHERRY TREE!

I GUESS IT WAS JUST A DAYDREAM OR SOMETHING.
I THOUGHT THOSE KINDS OF THINGS ONLY HAPPENED IN BOOKS 'N STUFF.

IT IS BROKEN IN HALF.

DON'T YOU SEE ALL THESE ITTY-BITTY BRANCHES GROWING OUT OF IT?
IT WAS A BIT SPARSE THIS YEAR, BUT NEXT YEAR PROMISES TO BE FLOWERY BEYOND YOUR WILDEST FLOWER FANTASIES!
!!

WRONG!

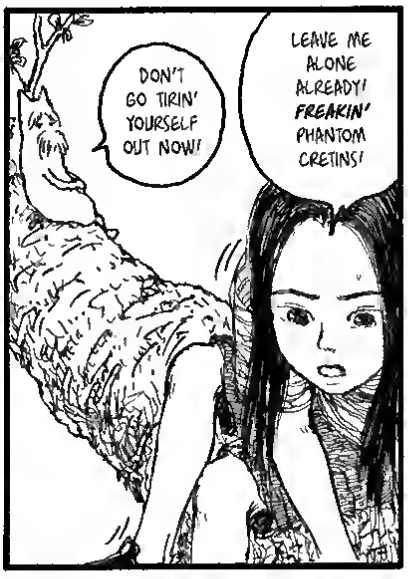
THIS TREE IS LONG DEAD.

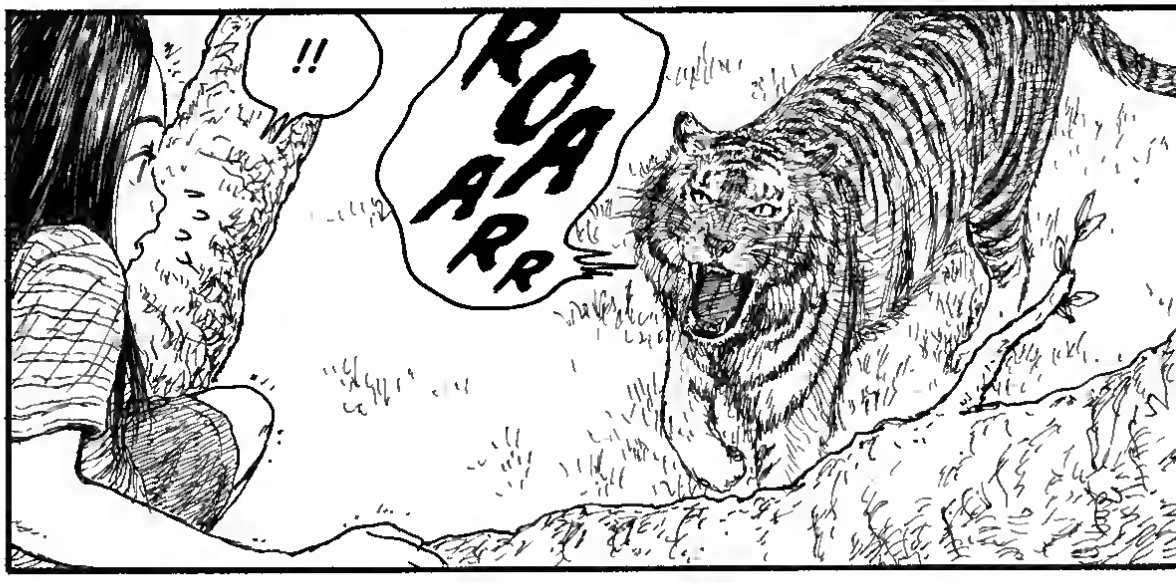
WH-WHATTAYA MEAN "MEASLY"? TEN YEARS AGO I WAS ONE!
SO YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME, HAVE YA? AFTER JUST TEN MEASLY YEARS, NOW!
HALLUCI-NATIN' MY FOOT!
OH, I GET IT. GRANDMA MUST'VE SLIPPED ME ONE OF THOSE WEIRD HERBS, AND NOW I'M HALLUCINATING.
...AM I SEEIN' THINGS?!
!!
!
!
HEAVE
WE'VE NEVER EVEN MET BEFORE! YOU'RE AWFULLY CRABBY FOR A HALLUCINATION!
WAIT RIGHT THERE WHILE I COME WIPE YOU OUT!

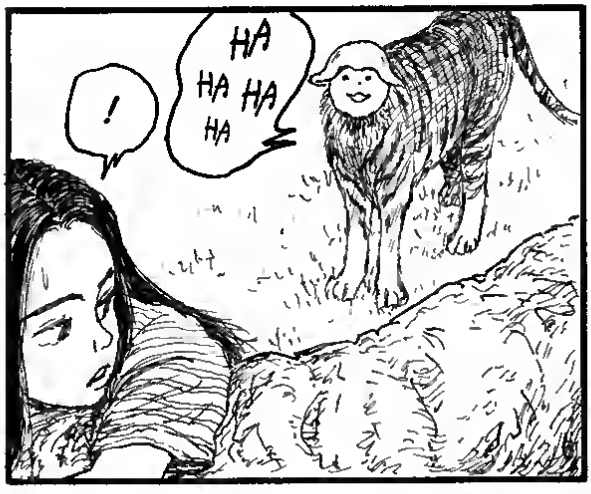
...
A MOGURI...
!
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF... VERY WELL THEN, HERE WE GO.
WHAT IS?!
FINALLY COMING BACK TO YA, EH?
HUH?
'TWERE TEN YEARS AGO THAT THE LOT OF YA TREKKED ON UP HERE FOR SOME GOOD OL' CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWIN'.

UH-OH. MIYORI?
MIYORI?!
FOR WHATEVER REASON, YOU WERE ABLE TO SEE US.
OH, GOODNESS. LOOKS LIKE THAT CHERRY TREE'S TAKEN A SHINE TO LITTLE MIYORI
...!
?
YAHHH!
HONEY! LOOK AT MIYORI! SHE'S...!
NO...
...
SO D'YA REMEMBER YET?!
I NEVER DID LEARN TO PLAY NICE WITH YOUR GRANDMAMMY EITHER, SO YOU ALL STOPPED COMING AROUND.
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN HOW RUDE THAT DUMB-DUMB MOTHER OF YOURS WAS.

I DON'T KNOW YOU AND I DON'T CARE!

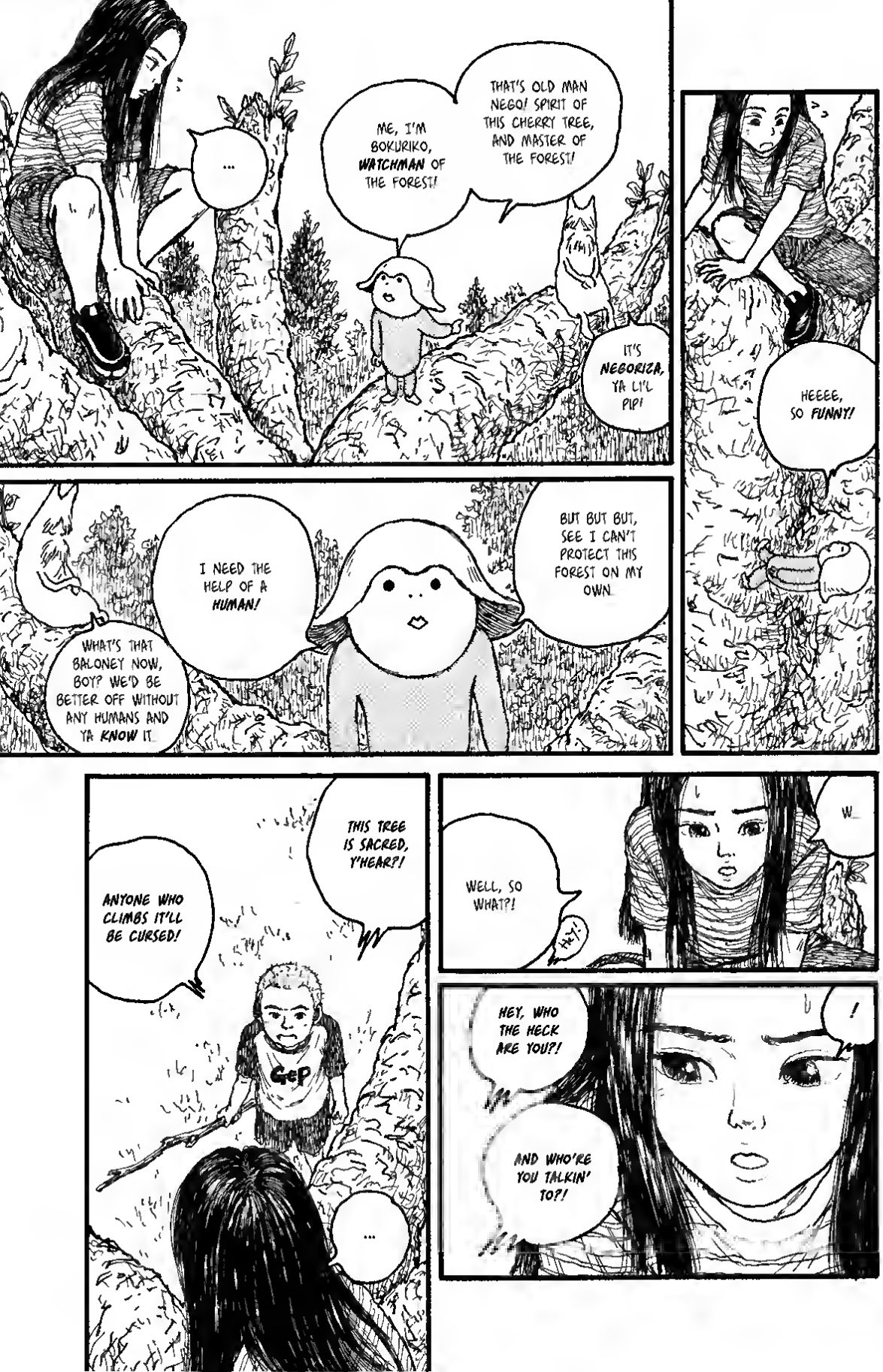

LEAVE ME ALONE ALREADY! FREAKIN' PHANTOM CRETINS!
DON'T GO TIRIN' YOURSELF OUT NOW!!


!!
ROAARR


!
HA HA HA HA

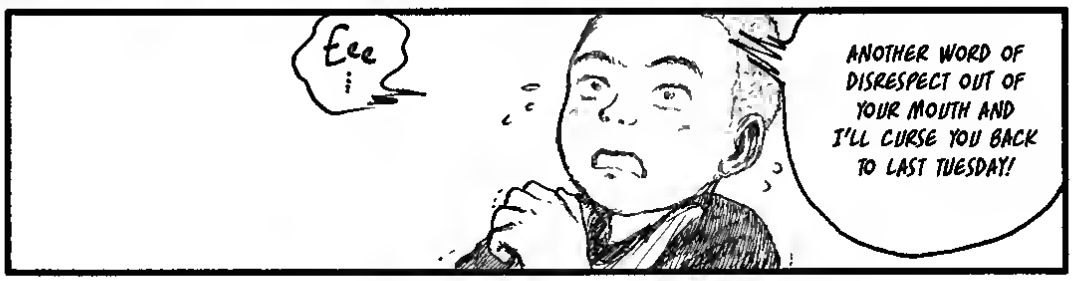
GYA HA HA HA

Eek!

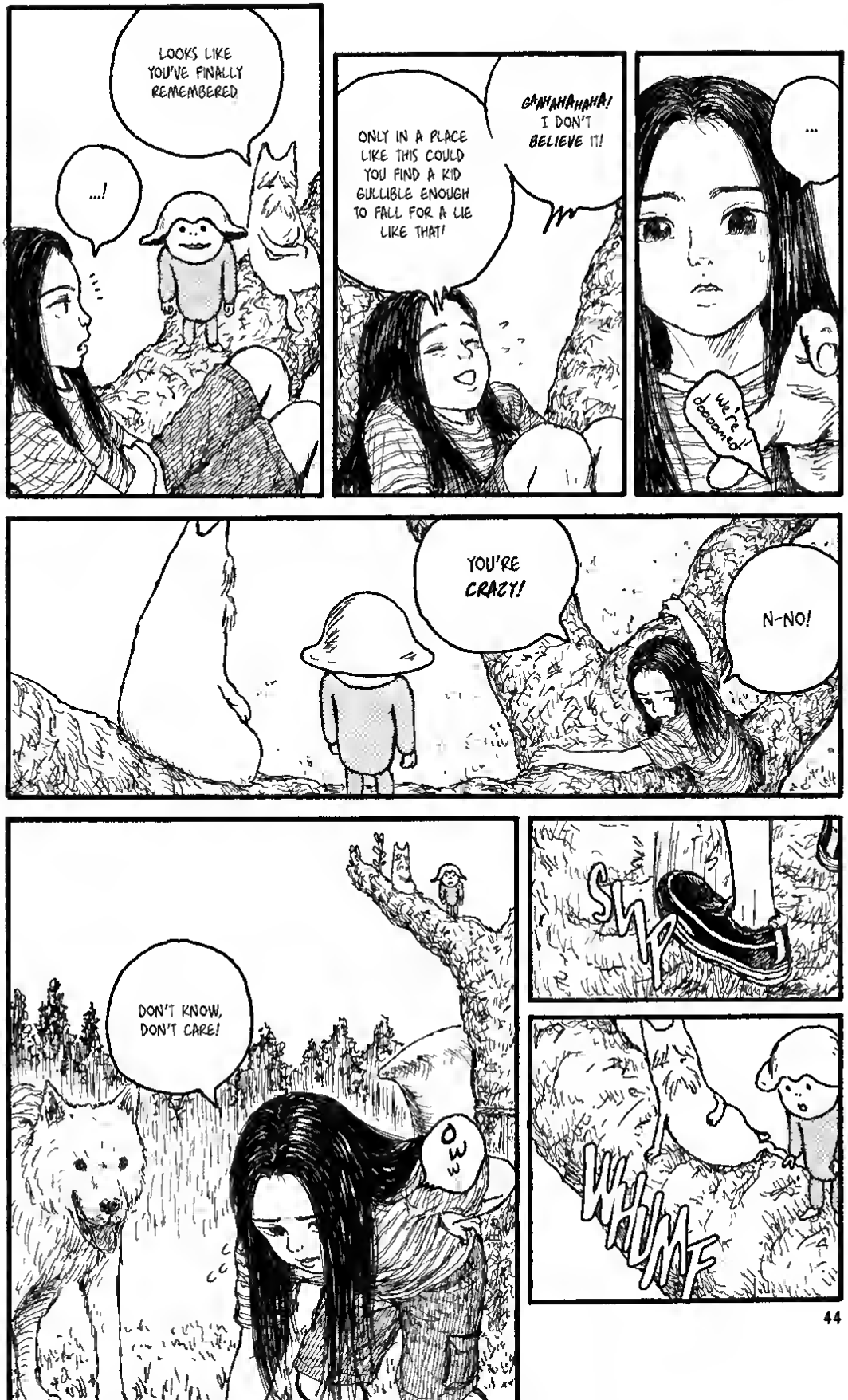

...
ME, I'M BOKURIKO, WATCHMAN OF THE FOREST!
THAT'S OLD MAN NEGO! SPIRIT OF THIS CHERRY TREE, AND MASTER OF THE FOREST!
IT'S NEGORIZA, YA LI'L PIP!
HEEEE, SO FUNNY!
WHAT'S THAT BALONEY NOW, BOY? WE'D BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ANY HUMANS AND YA KNOW IT.
I NEED THE HELP OF A HUMAN!
BUT BUT BUT, SEE I CAN'T PROTECT THIS FOREST ON MY OWN.
THIS TREE IS SACRED, Y'HEAR?!
ANYONE WHO CLIMBS IT'LL BE CURSED!
...
W.
WELL, SO WHAT?!
HEY!
HEY, WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
!
AND WHO'RE YOU TALKIN' TO?!

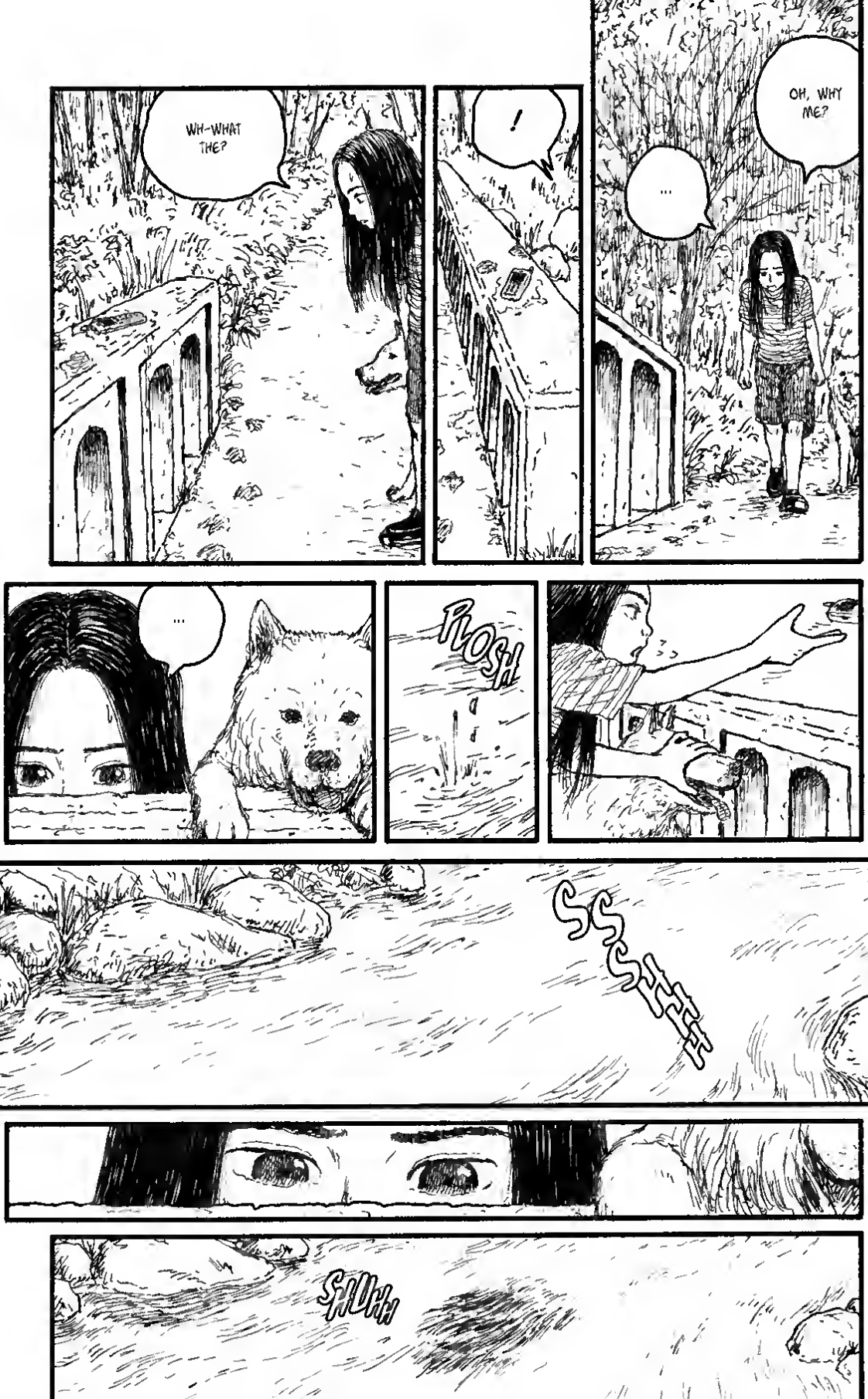
WHATTAYA MEAN TO MYSEL--
THEY'RE GONE...
WHY WERE YOU TALKING TO YOURSELF?
YOU BONKERS IN THE HEAD?
WHOA, LOOKS LIKE A REAL COUNTRY-FRIED RUBE
THAT'S WHY I TALK TO PEOPLE WHO AREN'T REALLY THERE! GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!
HE COULDN'T SEE THEM?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, I HAVE A MENTAL ILLNESS! THAT MEANS I'M CRAZY IN THE HEAD!
HEH, GUESS YOU FOUND ME OUT.
OLD LADY MAGIC..?
HAHA!
...
YOU'RE OVER AT OLD LADY MAGIC'S PLACE, RIGHT?
Eep
OH, HEY KURO.
AH, I GET IT.
Gep

GUILTY AS CHARGED! I'M THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF A WITCH!
NOT TO MENTION PROTECTOR OF THIS FOREST! THAT'S WHY I CAN CLIMB THIS TREE NO PROBLEM!

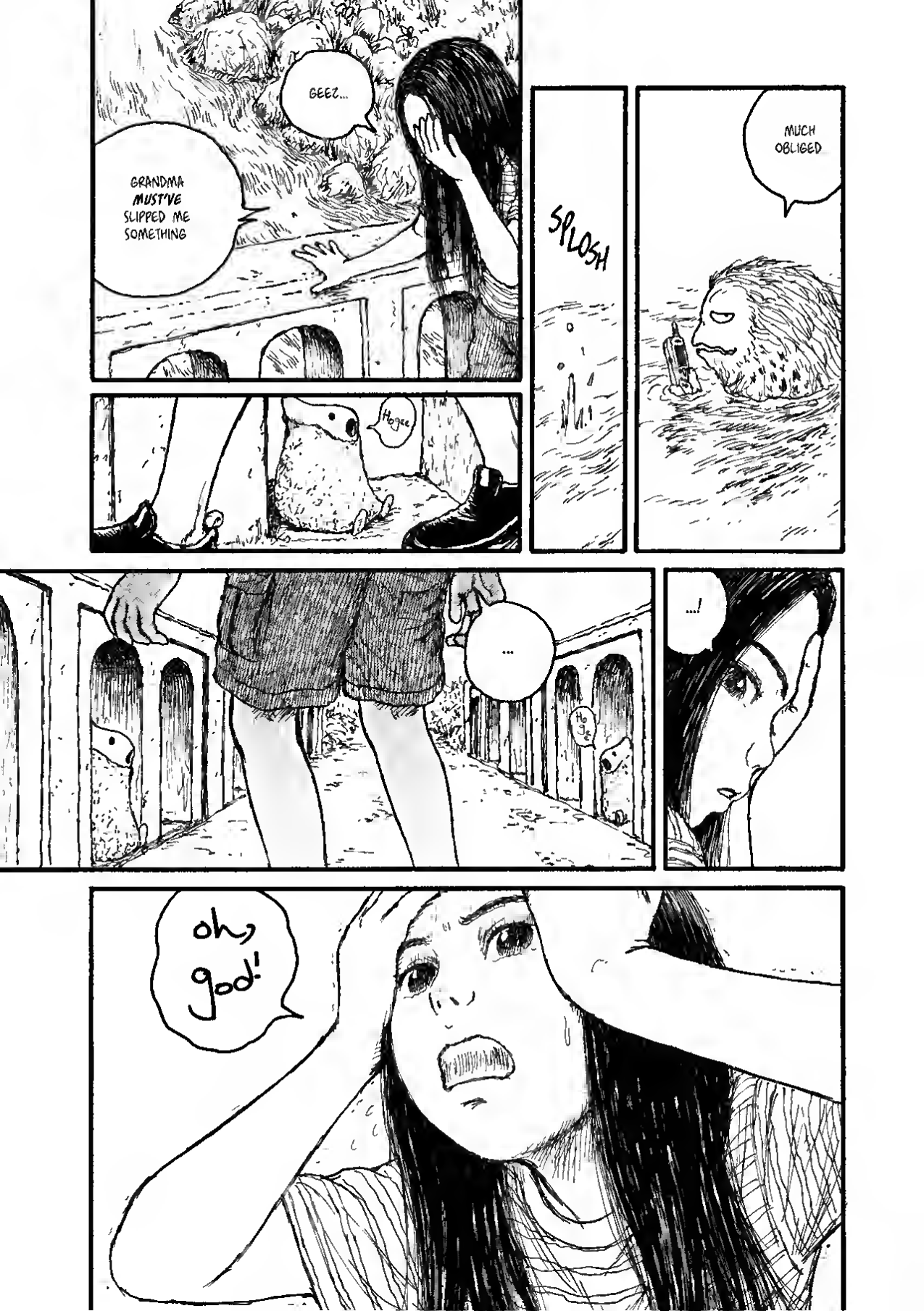

Eee i
ANOTHER WORD OF DISRESPECT OUT OF YOUR MOUTH AND I'LL CURSE YOU BACK TO LAST TUESDAY!

GRAAH
...

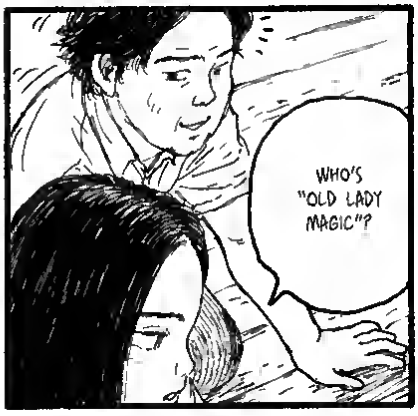

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FINALLY REMEMBERED
...!
GAHAHAHAHA! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
ONLY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS COULD YOU FIND A KID GULLIBLE ENOUGH TO FALL FOR A LIE LIKE THAT!
...
WE'RE DOOOOMED!
YOU'RE CRAZY!
N-NO!
DON'T KNOW, DON'T CARE!
OWW
SHP
WHUMF


WH-WHAT THE?
!
OH, WHY ME?
...
...
PLOSH
SSSHHH
SHUHH

YOU DROP THIS AGAIN?
...
...!
A-SAY WHAT?
I'M TRYING TO THROW IT OUT!
I THINK I'VE BEEN POLITE JUST ABOUT LONG ENOUGH, HERE.
FORGET IT! I CAN'T USE IT ANYMORE!
...CAN I HAVE IT, THEN?
OH! YEAH, YEAH!
GETTING RID OF IT, EH?
HMM...
YOU CAN'T JUST DUMP IT HERE!
WELL, I'M SORRY!


GEEZ...
GRANDMA MUST'VE SLIPPED ME SOMETHING
Hoyee
SPLOSH
MUCH OBLIGED
...
...!
oh, god!

YOU'RE A BIT EARLIER THAN I EXPECTED.


WHO'S "OLD LADY MAGIC"?

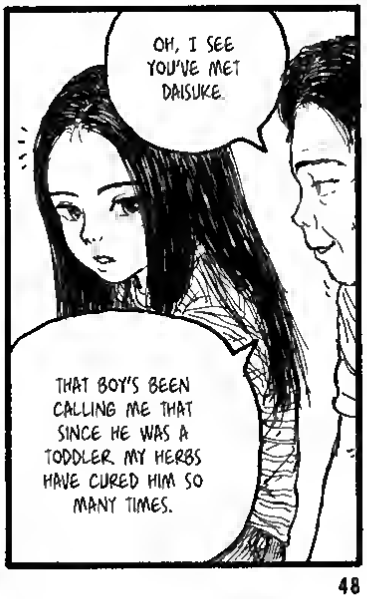
...

OH... YES?

UM...
UM... GRANDMA?

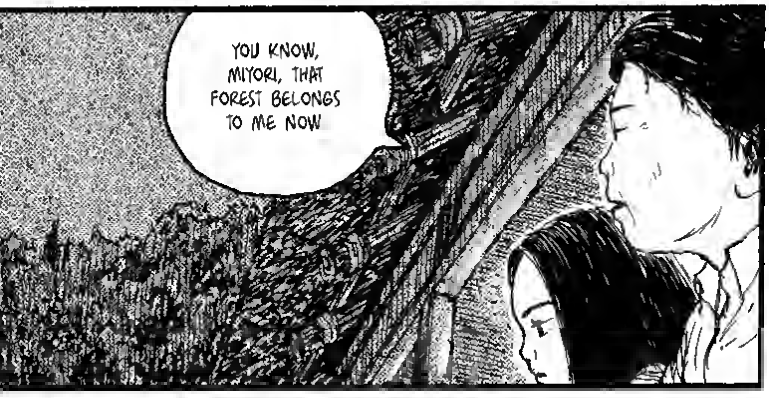
I SEE... SOUNDS LIKE YOU MADE A FEW NEW FRIENDS IN THE WOODS TODAY.
HUH?

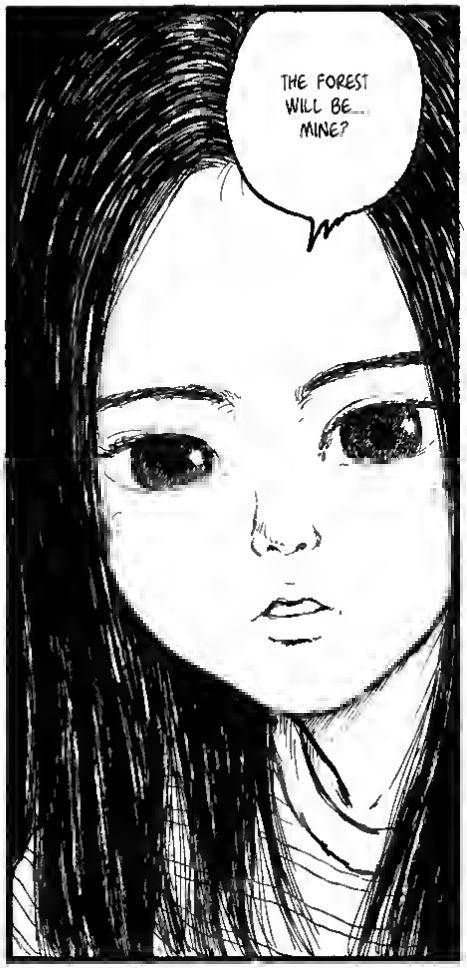
GRANDMA, AM I...
HM?


OH, I SEE YOU'VE MET DAISUKE.
THAT BOY'S BEEN CALLING ME THAT SINCE HE WAS A TODDLER. MY HERBS HAVE CURED HIM SO MANY TIMES.

...
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE JUST SEEING THINGS!

TEN YEARS AGO WHEN YOU CAME HERE TO SEE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS, THE FOREST CHOSE YOU AS ITS NEW MASTER.


YOU KNOW, MIYORI, THAT FOREST BELONGS TO ME NOW.

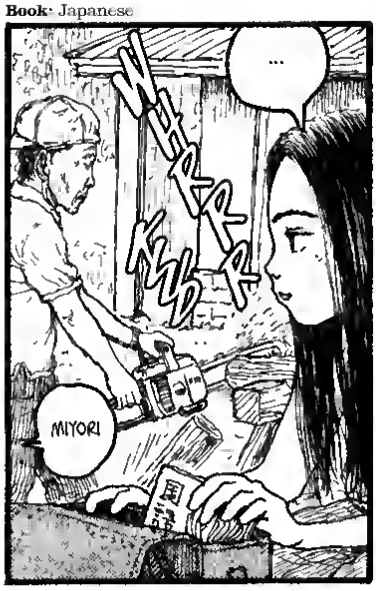

THE FOREST WILL BE... MINE?

IT'S MY NAME WHAT'S ON THE LEASE!
WHAAAT?! IT'S YOURS?

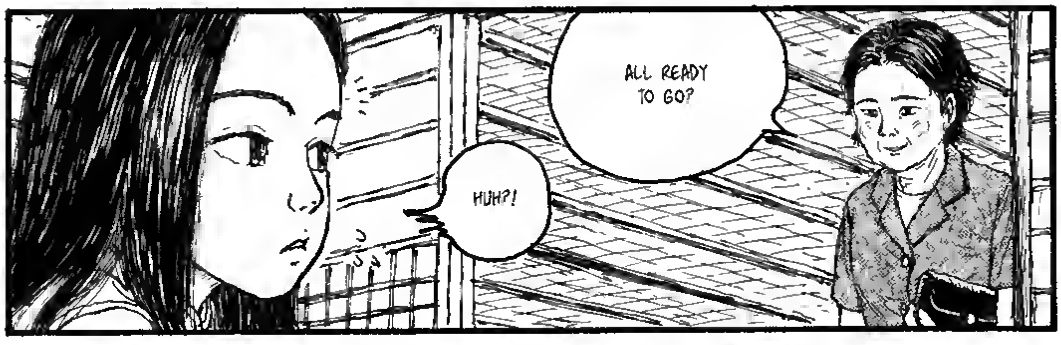
IT'S HUMAN FOLLY THAT DETERMINES WHETHER A FOREST THRIVES OR DIES OFF. THEY NEED A PROTECTOR WHO CAN HEAR THEIR VOICE.
ONE DAY, I'M PLANNING TO PASS IT ALL DOWN TO YOU.
WHA...

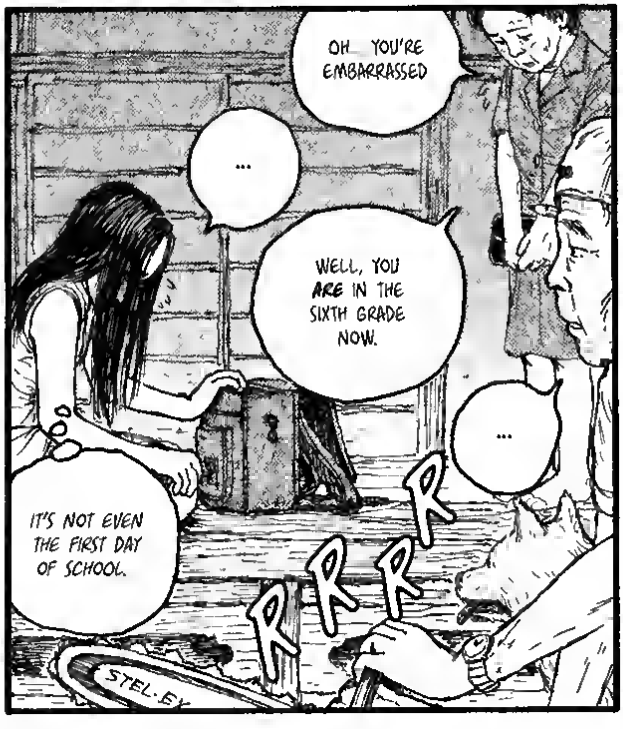
I, Forest Guardian / End

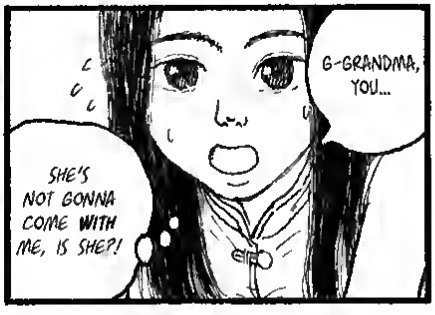
Story 3
The Eastern Woods Hanging Rock


...
WHRRR
KLR
MIYORI

WHRRRZZZZZZ
STIL-EX


ALL READY TO GO?
HUH?!


OH... YOU'RE EMBARRASSED
...
WELL, YOU ARE IN THE SIXTH GRADE NOW.
...
IT'S NOT EVEN THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
RRR
STEL-EX


G-GRANDMA, YOU...
SHE'S NOT GONNA COME WITH ME, IS SHE?!

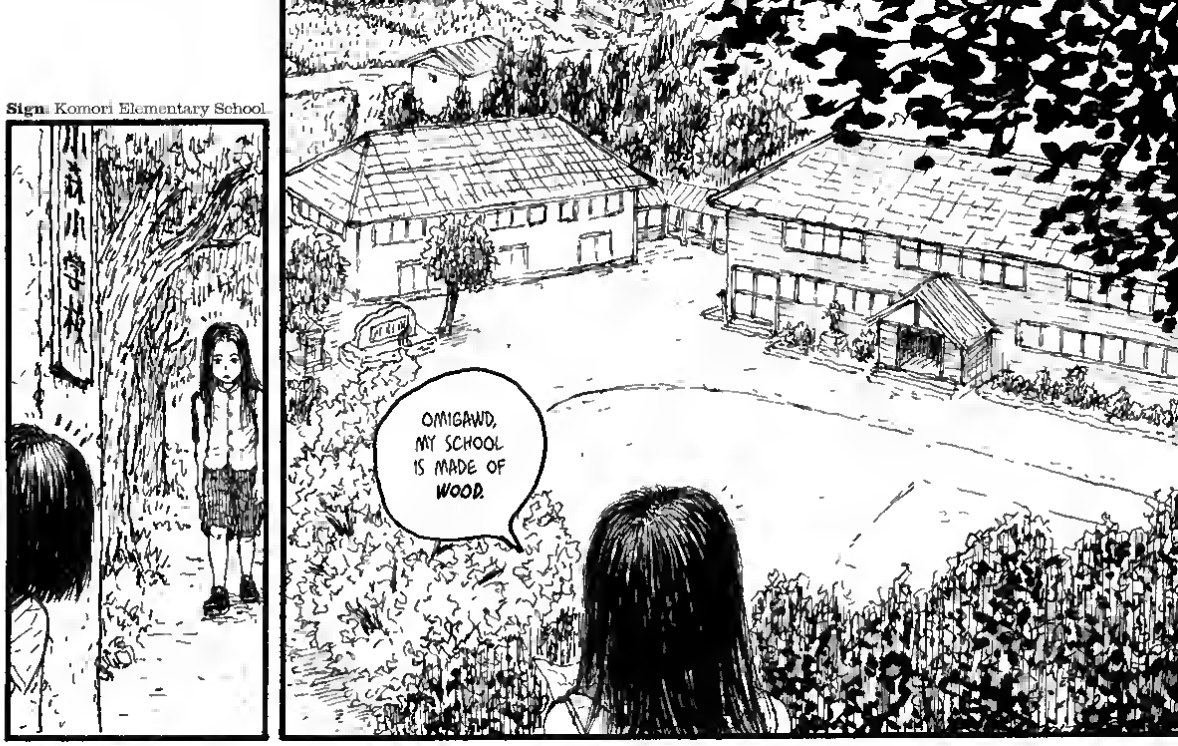
WHAT? SHOULD I CHANGE?
OH, NO, IT'S NOT THAT...

OH. OKAY.
IF YOU WOULD JUST DRAW ME A MAP.
...
HM?
OH, BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE WAY THERE.
M-map?
...
ONCE YOU'RE OUT OF THE WOODS, IT'LL BE ON THE RIGHT
...
JUST GO STRAAAAIGHT ALONG THE PATH LIKE THIS, SEE?
THEN YA GO LIKE THIS, SEE?
I'LL WHIP YA UP A MAP, SWEETIE-PIE!
BE CAREFUL, NOW
WELL, OFF I GO.
OKAY.
WOOF
BY THE TIME YOU GET BACK, YOU'LL HAVE YOURSELF A NEW BED!

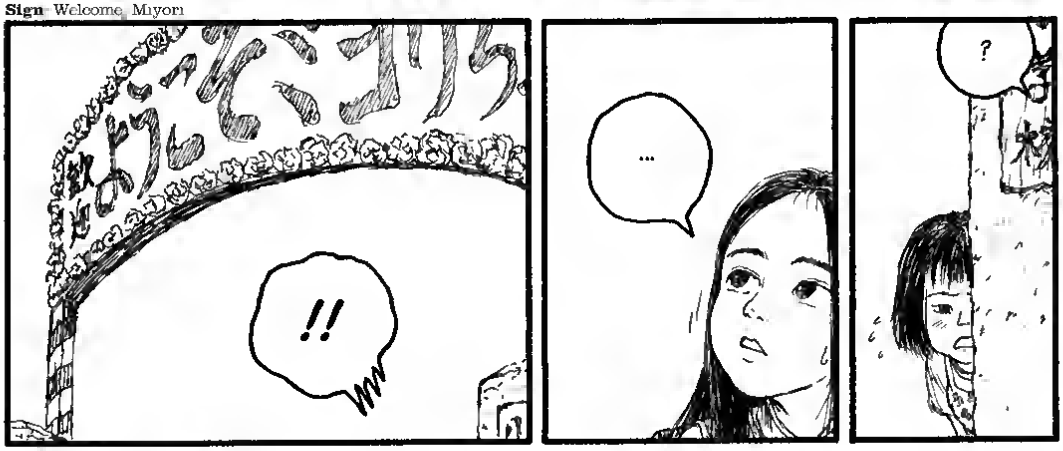
I CAN'T EVEN SEE MY OWN GRANDDAUGHTER OFF ON HER FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
OHHHH..
...
KURO, YOU STAY HERE.
WOO-
THAT'S RIGHT, SWEETIE ALL YOURS
MAAAN, I'VE GOT TO PASS THROUGH THE WOODS EVERY DAY?
NOBODY HERE, HUH?
UH-OH
I KNEW IT

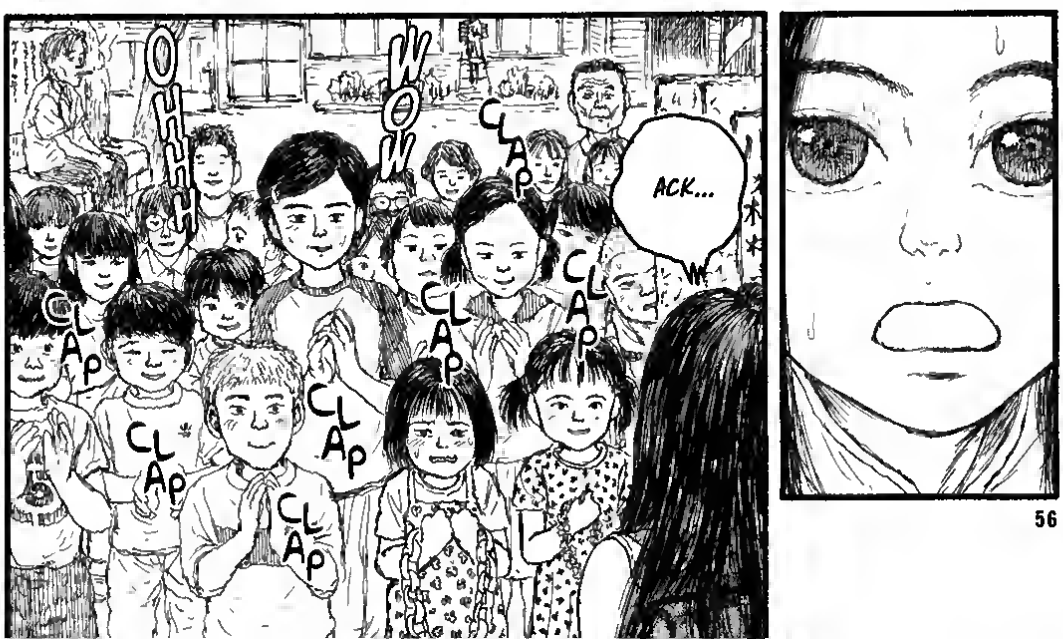
!!
HOGEE
HOGEE
!!
HAVE A NICE DAY.
HOW COULD THESE THINGS BE REAL?
GONK
WHY YOU LITTLE...
...
HE HE HE HE
B-BOKURIKO!

Sign: Komori Elementary School

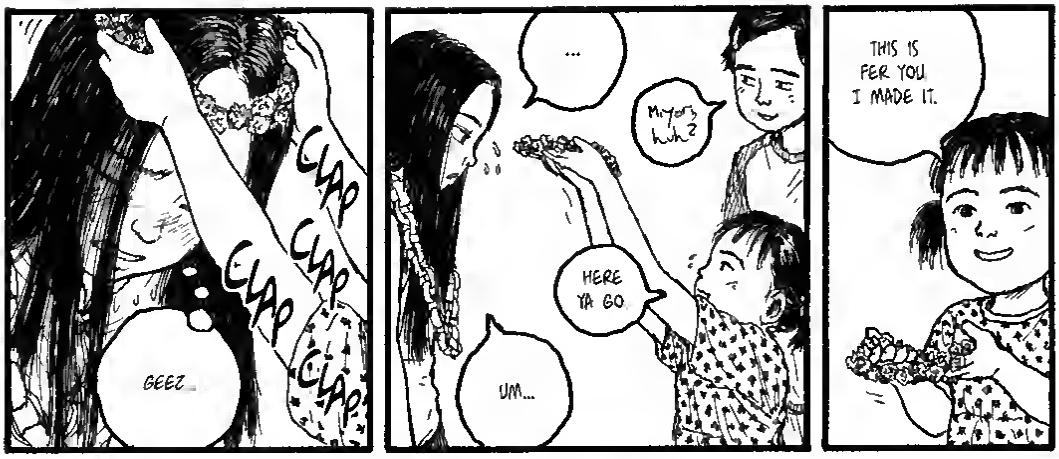


Sign: Welcome, Miyori

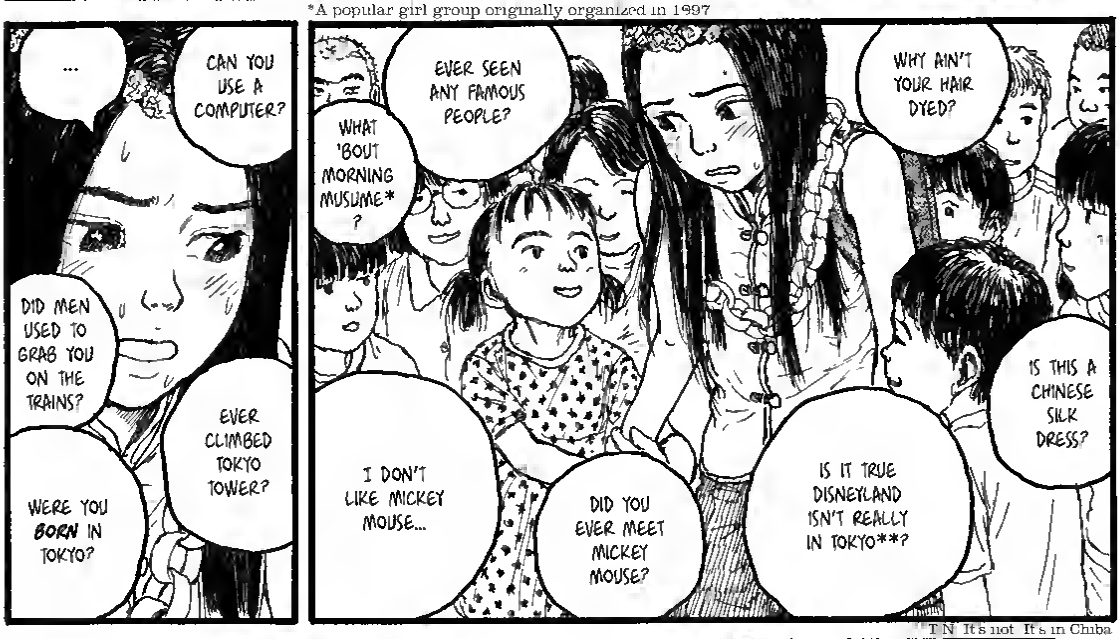




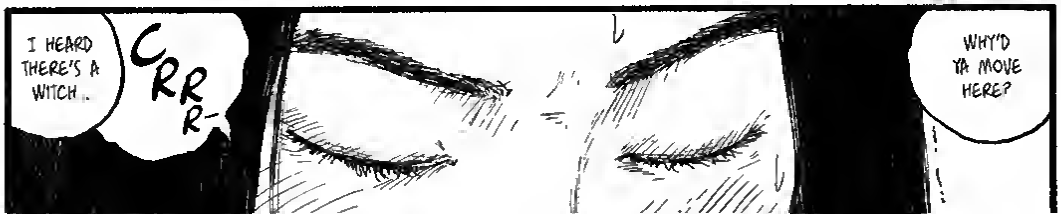
...
W-W-WELCOME TO... K-KOMORI...
OH...
FLAP
MI-MIYO...
MIYORI...
WHOA...
...
Told ya she couldn't handle this
SACHIKO, LEND ME A HAND, WILL YA?!
OH BOY... SHE DIDN'T SLEEP ALL NIGHT, SHE WAS SO NERVOUS.
Nn...
WAHHH!
!
DRIP
DRIP
NAOKO!
HERE WE GO AGAIN.
Gross
Gahhh
Oh my God!
MR. KURODA, PUT OUT THAT CIGARETTE.
NAOKO, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
MS. OKAKO! NAOKO PEED HERSELF!
Wahhh
Sniff
Bawww
I'M YOKO. GOOD TO MEET YA

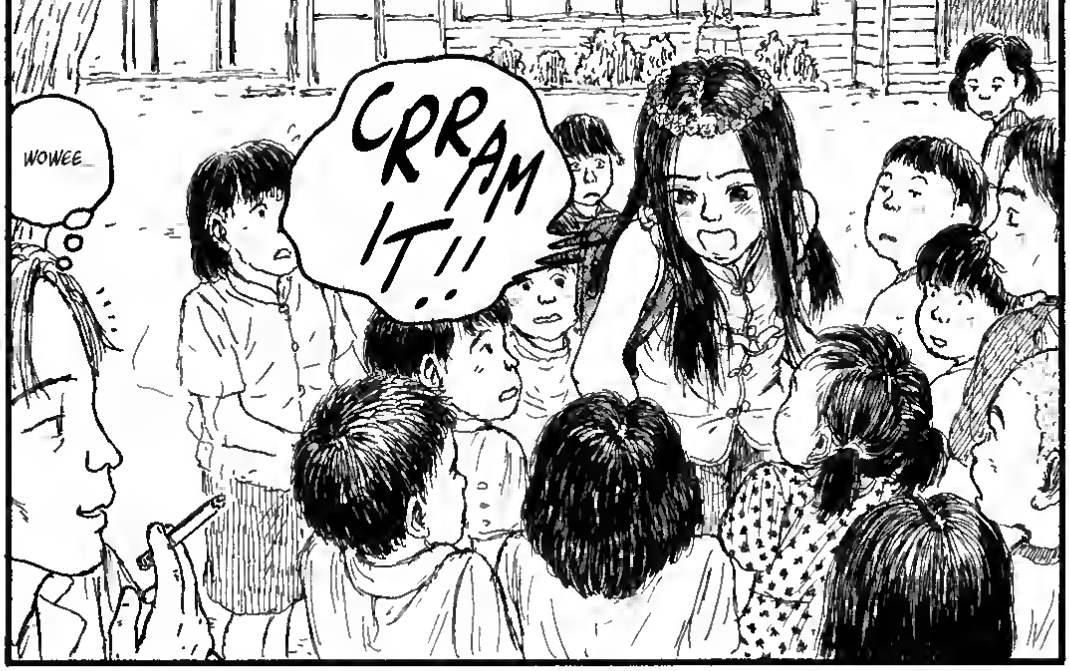


*A popular girl group originally organized in 1997

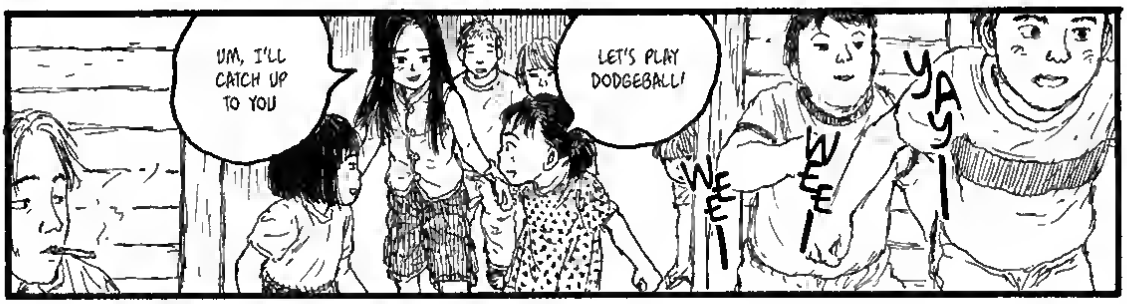

...
CAN YOU USE A COMPUTER?
DID MEN USED TO GRAB YOU ON THE TRAINS?
EVER CLIMBED TOKYO TOWER?
WERE YOU BORN IN TOKYO?
EVER SEEN ANY FAMOUS PEOPLE?
WHAT 'BOUT MORNING MUSUME* ?
WHY AIN'T YOUR HAIR DYED?
I DON'T LIKE MICKEY MOUSE...
DID YOU EVER MEET MICKEY MOUSE?
IS IT TRUE DISNEYLAND ISN'T REALLY IN TOKYO**?
IS THIS A CHINESE SILK DRESS?

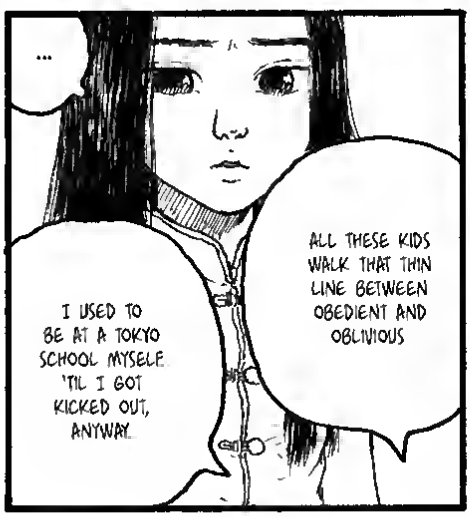
**T.N. It's not. It's in Chiba

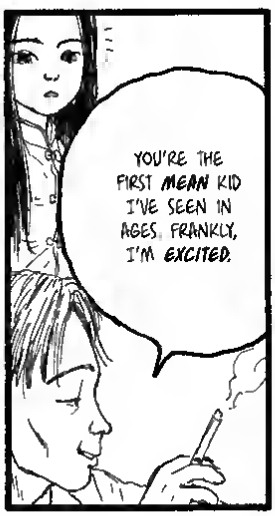


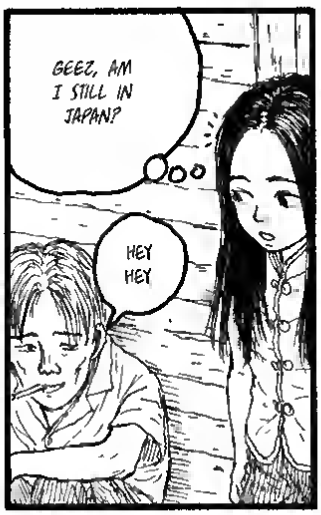

WOWEE...
CRAM IT!!

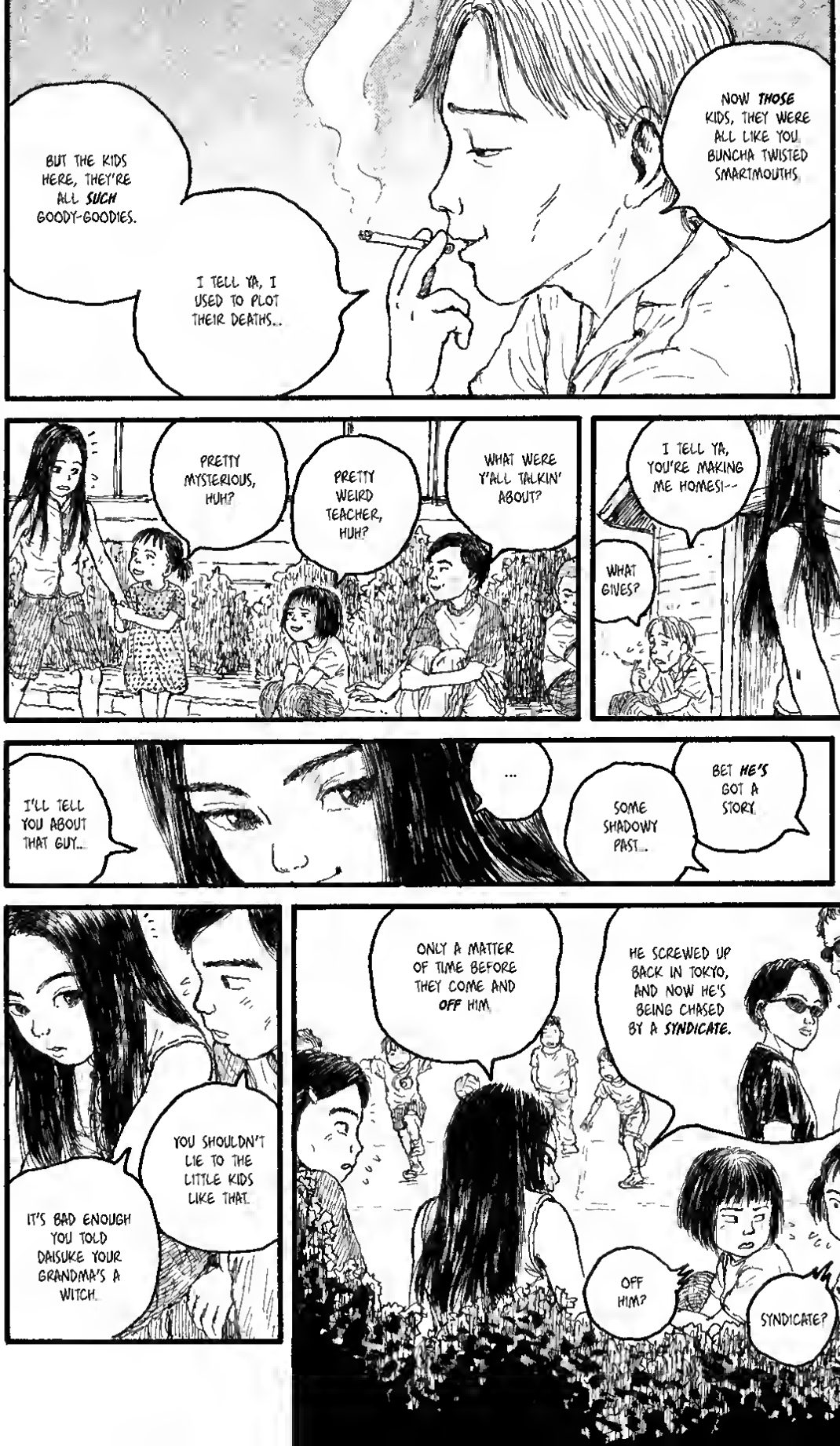
DONG
DING
DONG
DING


UM, I'LL CATCH UP TO YOU
LET'S PLAY DODGEBALL!
WEE!
WEE!
YAY!

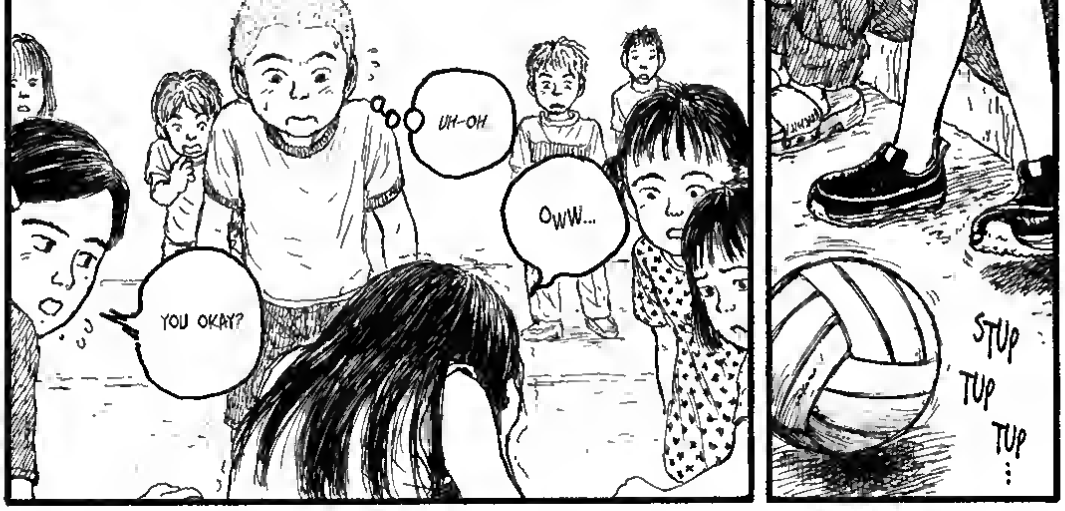

...
I USED TO BE AT A TOKYO SCHOOL MYSELF 'TIL I GOT KICKED OUT, ANYWAY.
ALL THESE KIDS WALK THAT THIN LINE BETWEEN OBEDIENT AND OBLIVIOUS

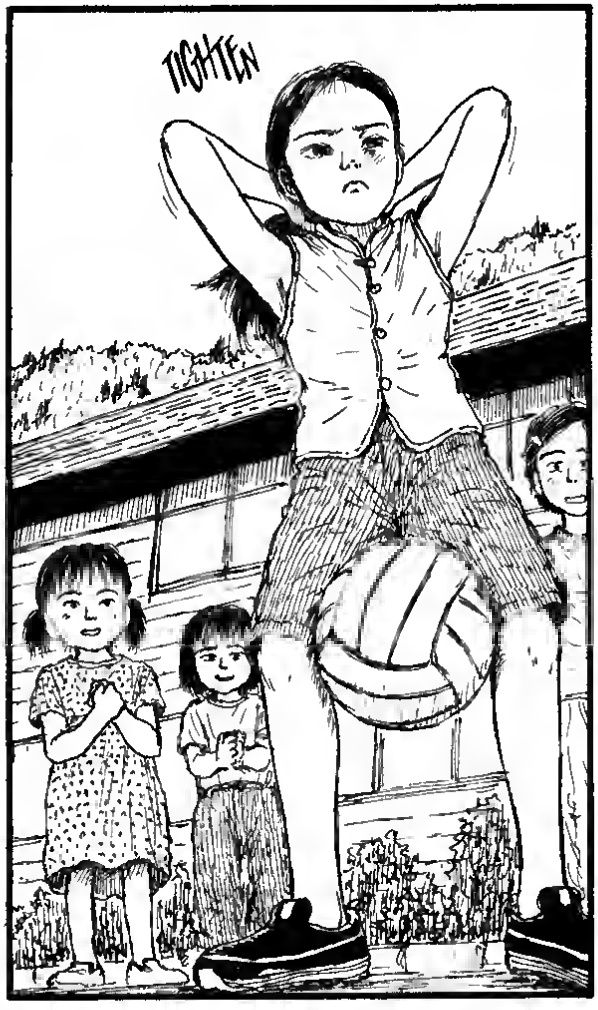

YOU'RE THE FIRST MEAN KID I'VE SEEN IN AGES. FRANKLY, I'M EXCITED.

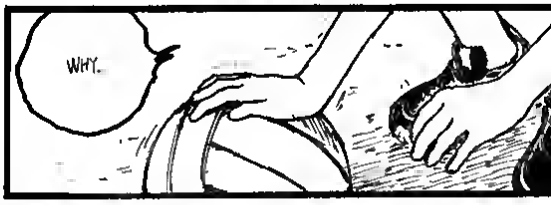

GEEZ, AM I STILL IN JAPAN?
HEY HEY

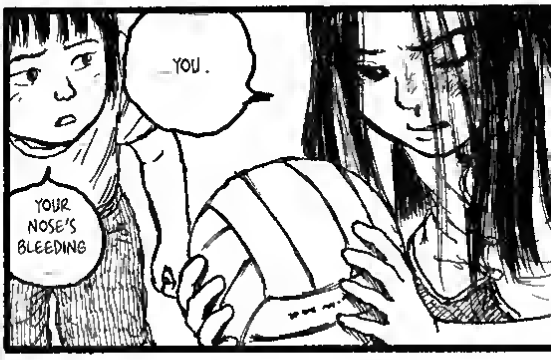

NOW THOSE KIDS, THEY WERE ALL LIKE YOU. BUNCHA TWISTED SMARTMOUTHS.
BUT THE KIDS HERE, THEY'RE ALL SUCH GOODY-GOODIES.
I TELL YA, I USED TO PLOT THEIR DEATHS...
PRETTY MYSTERIOUS, HUH?
PRETTY WEIRD TEACHER, HUH?
WHAT WERE Y'ALL TALKIN' ABOUT?
I TELL YA, YOU'RE MAKING ME HOMESI--
WHAT GIVES?
I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT THAT GUY...
...
SOME SHADOWY PAST...
BET HE'S GOT A STORY.
YOU SHOULDN'T LIE TO THE LITTLE KIDS LIKE THAT.
IT'S BAD ENOUGH YOU TOLD DAISUKE YOUR GRANDMA'S A WITCH.
ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY COME AND OFF HIM.
HE SCREWED UP BACK IN TOKYO, AND NOW HE'S BEING CHASED BY A SYNDICATE.
OFF HIM?
SYNDICATE?

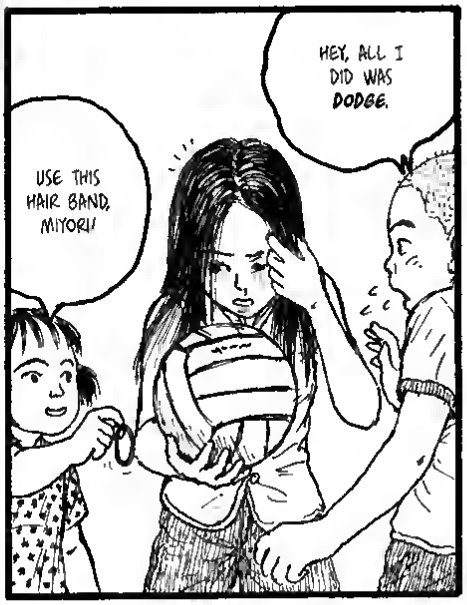
OOH, I'LL GO!
OH, THEN MAYBE YOU CAN PROVE IT LATER.
SURE!
WELL, THAT'S 'CUZ OLD LADY MASHIMA REALLY DOES USE MAGIC! I SEEN IT!
C'MON, DAISUKE YOU GONNA BELIEVE A STORY LIKE THAT IN THE SIXTH GRADE?
SIXTH ?!
MIYORI!!!
IT'S LIKE A WHOLE TOWN FULL OF YUKIHITOS
CAN I COME TOO?
I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND
THWOK
chuckle chuckle chuckle
DAISUKE, WATCH OUT!
Ack!

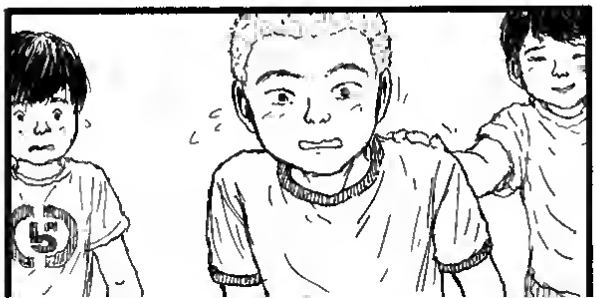

UH-OH
OWW...
YOU OKAY?
STUP
TUP
TUP


TIGHTEN


WHY.


...YOU.
YOUR NOSE'S BLEEDING


HEY, ALL I DID WAS DODGE.
USE THIS HAIR BAND, MIYORI!



PAD
PAD
DI'EEE!
ARRRRGH!
THANK YOU, SIR.
JUST GO STRAIGHT 'N YOU'LL HIT KOMORI VILLAGE.
MIYAKO
UNYU

what an adventure!
HERE I AM, MIYORI

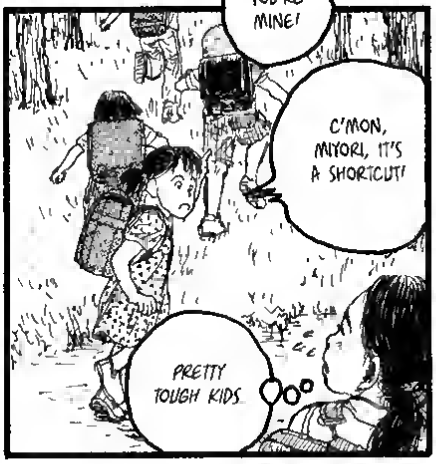
HO BOY

ME TOOOO
I'M IN!
WANNA RACE TO THE CHERRY TREE ON THE WAY THERE?
WE ARE? OKAY
C'MON, MIYORI, WE'RE GOIN' TO YOUR GRANDMA'S PLACE!
bye-bye!

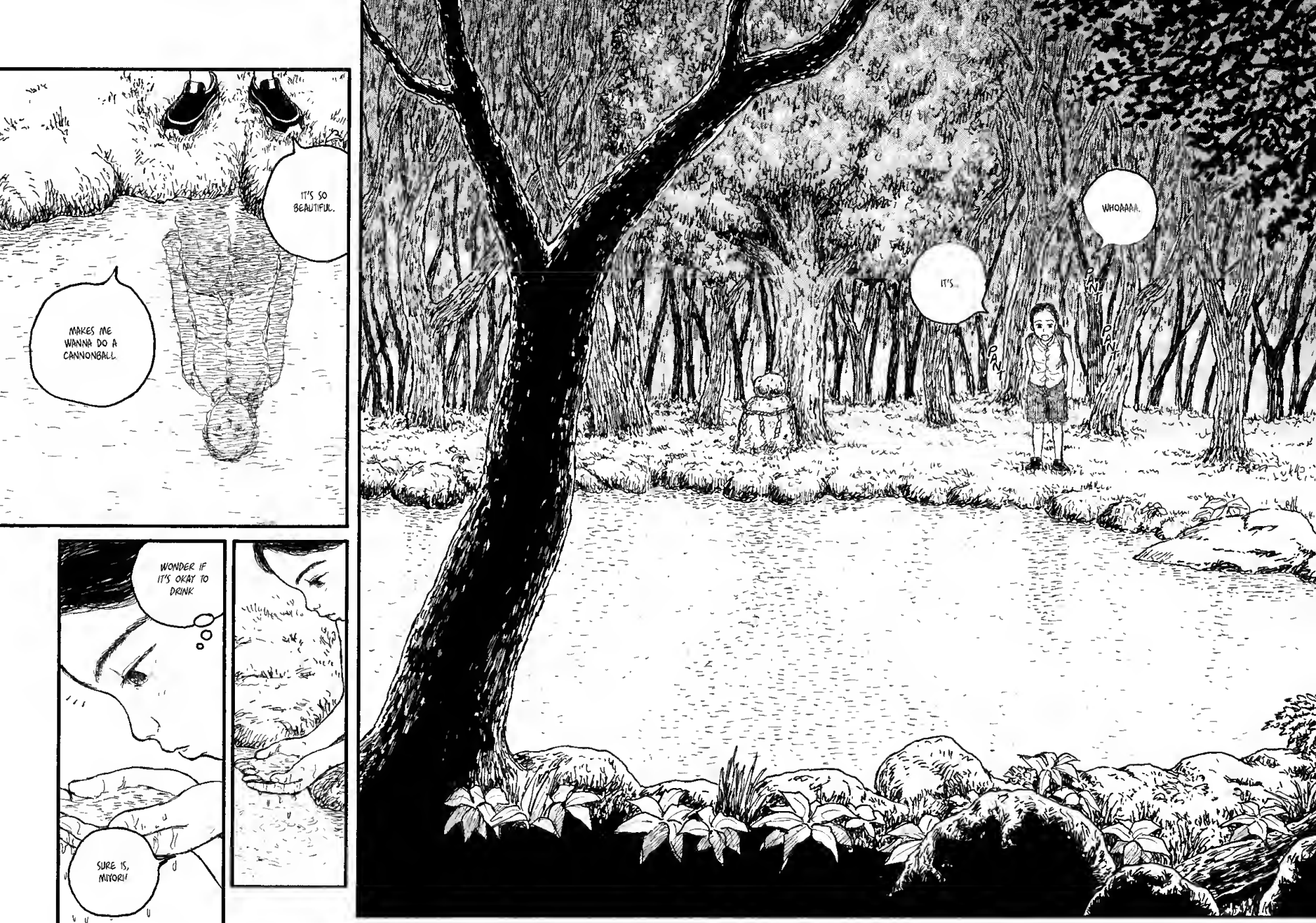
JUST KEEP GOING STRAIGHT!
RIGHT...
OKAY, GUESS I BETTER FOLLOW THE PEP SQUAD

YOU OKAY, MIYORI?
I'M FINE, JUST GO AHEAD OF ME

WHA?
OH, YA WANNA GO?

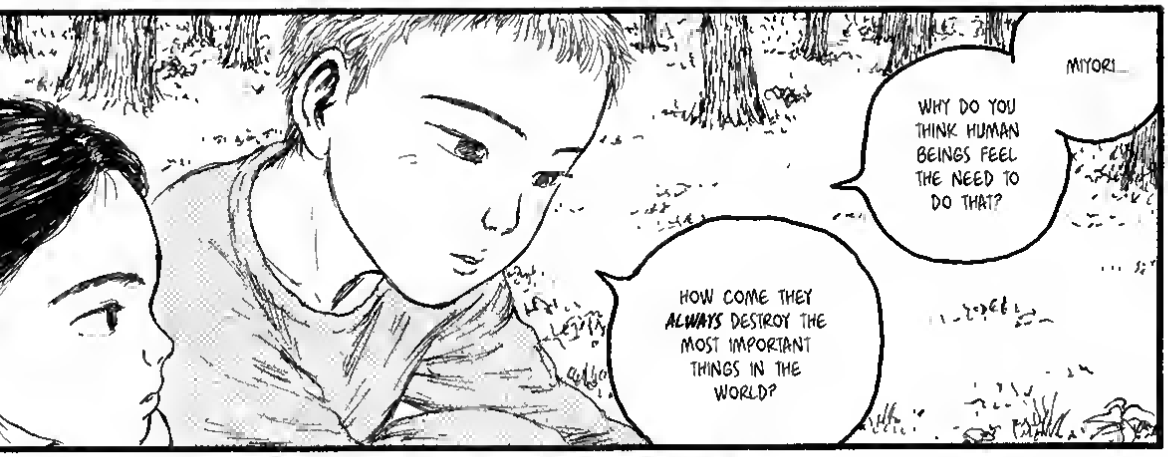

YOU'RE MINE!
C'MON, MIYORI, IT'S A SHORTCUT!
PRETTY TOUGH KIDS

I SWEAR, I'M GONNA GO NUTS OUT HERE
PANT
PANT
PANT
SO THIRSTY...
MIYORI!
PANT
PANT
PANT
MIYORI, YOU'RE OFF THE TRAIL!
WAH! IT'S HIM AGAIN!
DON'T GO THAT WAY!
Eeee!
THAT'S THE WRONG WAY, I TELLS YA!
Eeek!
AHHH!
MIYORI!
RUNCH RUNCH RUNCH
WHOA


WHOAAAA.
IT'S...
PANT
PANT
PANT
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.
MAKES ME WANNA DO A CANNONBALL
WONDER IF IT'S OKAY TO DRINK
SURE IS, MIYORI!

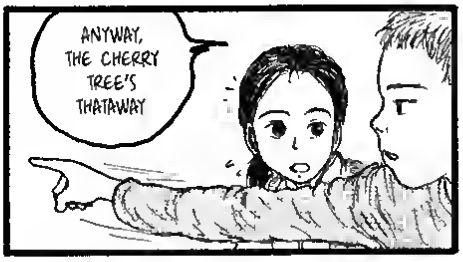
WAS SHE ONE OF THE TEACHERS?
THIS WATER'S CLEAN.
...
SEE HOW IT'S BUBBLING OUT OF THERE?
Gah!
WON'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE THIS SPRING IS SWALLOWED UP BY THE DAM, ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE.
WHAT?!
IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY TO CHANGE THINGS.
IT'S GOOD!
HOW CAN WATER TASTE SO GOOD?
AIN'T YOU EVER DRUNK GOOD WATER BEFORE?
HEH HEH!

SWALLOW UP MY FOREST?
A DAM?

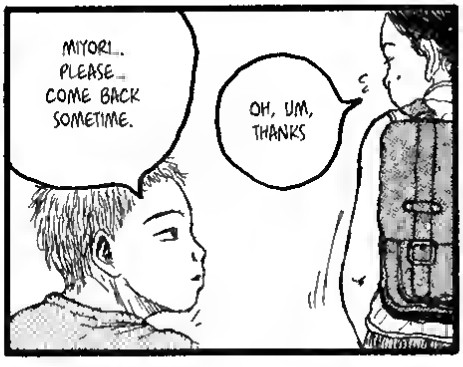

MIYORI...
WHY DO YOU THINK HUMAN BEINGS FEEL THE NEED TO DO THAT?
HOW COME THEY ALWAYS DESTROY THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN THE WORLD?

...
I MEAN.
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND 'EM.

JUST...
DON'T EVER BRING A MAN WITH YOU.


ANYWAY, THE CHERRY TREE'S THATAWAY

HEH... GEE...
SHE'S GOT NO SHOES...


MIYORI... PLEASE... COME BACK SOMETIME.
OH, UM, THANKS

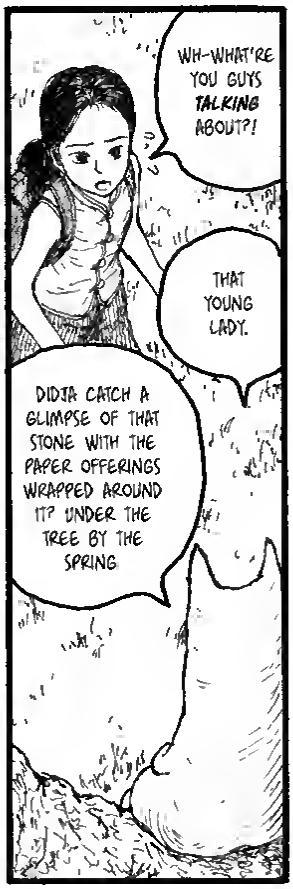
MADE IT BACK WITH NO PROBLEMS?
NOTHING HAPPENED TO YOU?
Gah!

STRANGE GIRL
GUESS YOU MEET ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE OUT IN THE BOONIES

SO THEN SHE HANGED HERSELF. EVER SINCE THEN, WELL...

SEEMS THERE WAS A MAN ONCE. HE HAD HIS WAY WITH HER AND THEN TOSSED HER OUT.

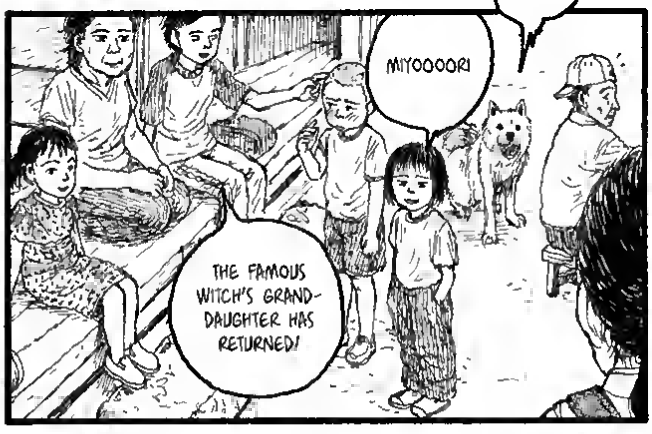
WE CALL THAT THE "HANGIN' ROCK"
!


WH-WHAT'RE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?!
THAT YOUNG LADY.
DIDJA CATCH A GLIMPSE OF THAT STONE WITH THE PAPER OFFERINGS WRAPPED AROUND IT? UNDER THE TREE BY THE SPRING

SHE'S A CREEPY ONE.
AND SHE'S NONE TOO CHEERFUL ABOUT IT, THAT'S FER SURE!
YEEEEP, SHE'S LONG DEAD
DON'T EVER BRING A MAN WITH YOU
YOU MUST'VE MET KANOKO AT THE CREEK BY NOW. HE'S THE REAL MASTER OF THAT SPRING.
YOU MEAN THAT GIRL WAS.
HEY! MIYORI!
...
BUT HE'S SO SCARED OF HER THAT HE WON'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR IT.
...
NO WAY.
shudder

NOW I'M GONNA START SEEING DEAD PEOPLE, TOO?!
SIGH

IT'S BAD ENOUGH SEEING SPIRITS EVERY-WHERE I GO
Howdy!
HoGeee

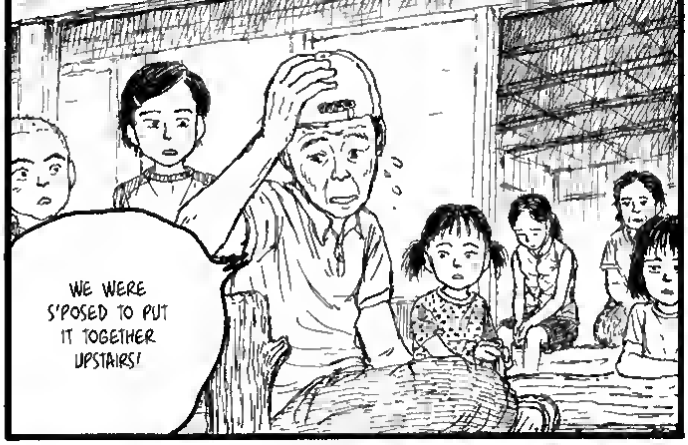

WOOF!
MIYOOOORI
THE FAMOUS WITCH'S GRAND-DAUGHTER HAS RETURNED!

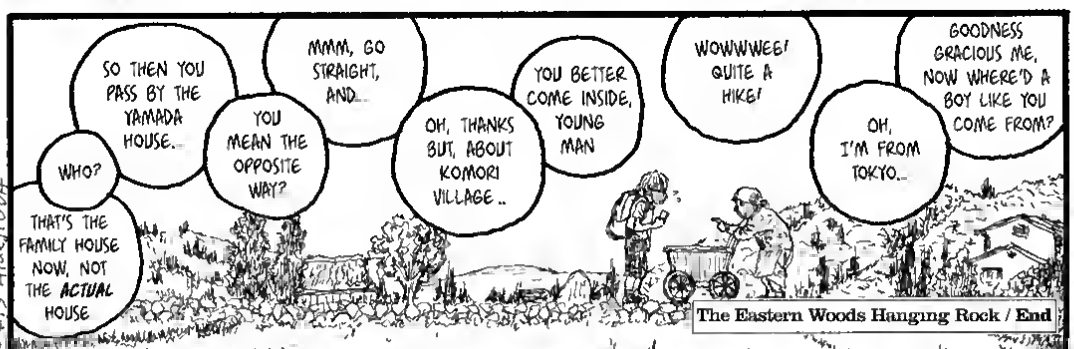
ALL WE GOTTA DO NOW IS PUT THE DANG THING TOGETHER!
PAT

...
I'M FINE
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

≈SIIGH≈
YOU TIRED?
WHATSAMATTER, MIYORI?

MAKE SURE YOU GOT A GOOD GRIP, NOW
THESE HERE LOGS'LL BE THE LEGS, SEE.
LESSEE HOW STRONG YA ARE, DAISUKE!
MIYORI, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN OUT THERE?
...
DON'T MOVE IT YET, DANG IT!
TAK TOK TAK TOK
TOK TOK
MIYORI..?
...
ALL DONE!
TOK TOK
...
SO YOU KNOW, HUH?
BUT THEY'RE STILL IN THE PLANNING PHASE, AND IT'S NOT THE ENTIRE FOREST, YOU KNOW.
I..
I HEARD THE FOREST IS GOING TO BE SWALLOWED UP BY A DAM
AWESOME!
LOOKS GREAT!
...
HOW D'YA LIKE IT?
CREAK CREAK CREAK




SO THEN YOU PASS BY THE YAMADA HOUSE..
MMM, GO STRAIGHT, AND...
YOU MEAN THE OPPOSITE WAY?
OH, THANKS BUT, ABOUT KOMORI VILLAGE..
YOU BETTER COME INSIDE, YOUNG MAN
WOWWWEE! QUITE A HIKE!
GOODNESS GRACIOUS ME, NOW WHERE'D A BOY LIKE YOU COME FROM?
OH, I'M FROM TOKYO...
WHO?
THAT'S THE FAMILY HOUSE NOW, NOT THE ACTUAL HOUSE

The Eastern Woods Hanging Rock / End

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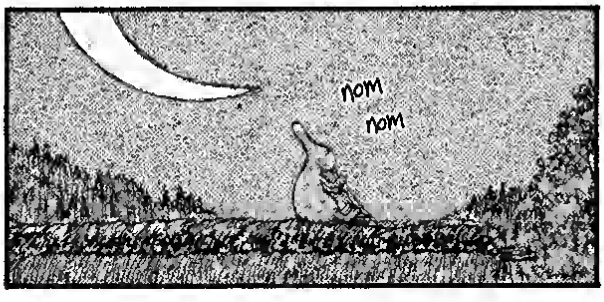
Story 4
Golden Eagle Search Patrol


nom
nom

nom
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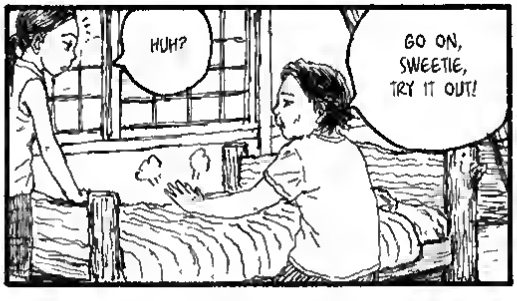
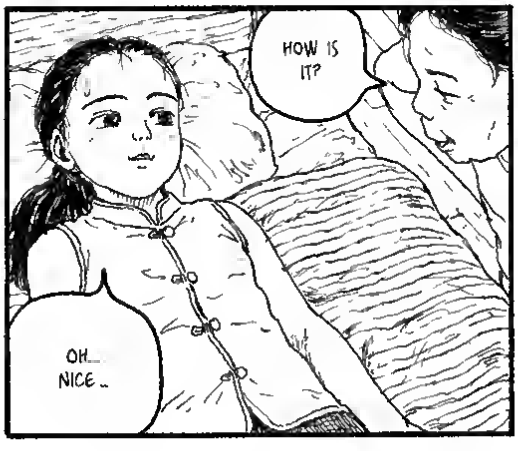
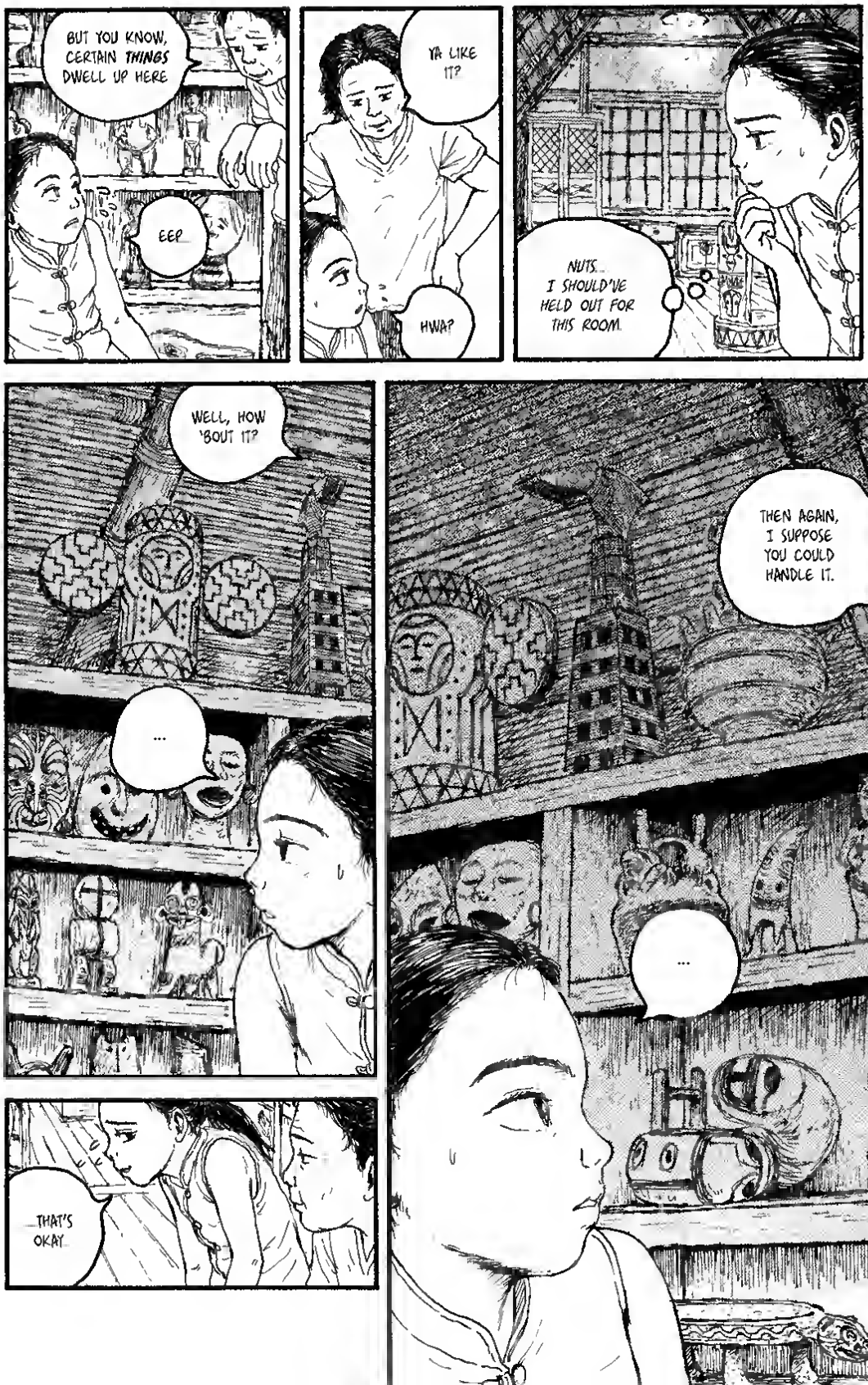
SSLK


HUH?
GO ON, SWEETIE, TRY IT OUT!

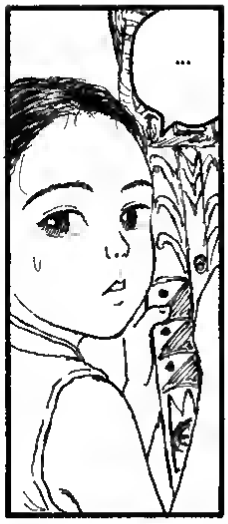

HOW IS IT?
OH... NICE..

THERE! GOOD TO GO!
PAT
PAT

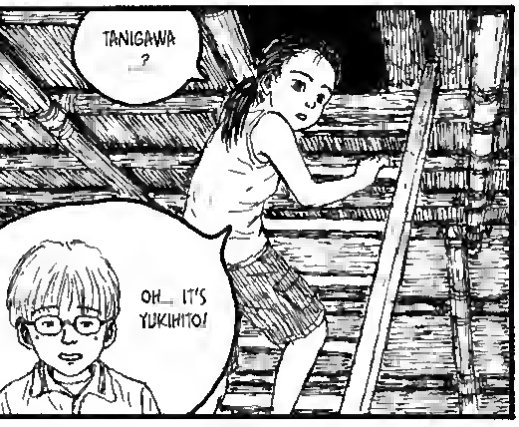
OH, THE THIRD FLOOR?
THIRD FLOOR?!
WHAT'S THAT...?
WHOA
THIS PLACE HAS THREE FLOORS?
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
KYAK
CLIK
WOW. NOW THIS IS AN ATTIC.

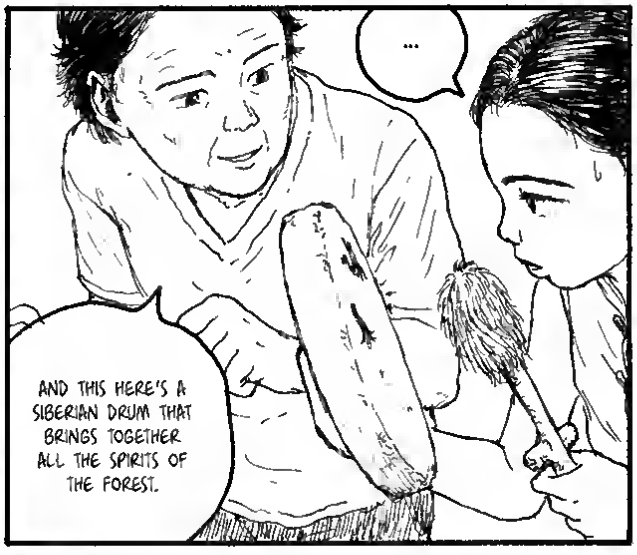

BUT YOU KNOW, CERTAIN *THINGS* DWELL UP HERE
EEP...
YA LIKE IT?
HWA?
NUTS... I SHOULD'VE HELD OUT FOR THIS ROOM.
WELL, HOW 'BOUT IT?
...
...THAT'S OKAY...
THEN AGAIN, I SUPPOSE YOU COULD HANDLE IT.
...

WHAT ABOUT THIS?
OVER IN SCANDINAVIA, THEY USE THAT TO CATCH WIND SPIRITS, SEE


...

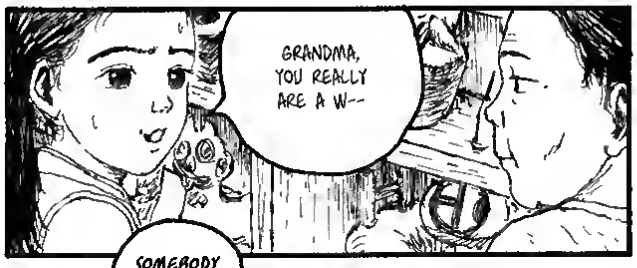
WHAT'S THIS THING?
THAT'S AN AFRICAN GATEPOST, WHICH WARDS OFF EVIL SPIRITS.


TANIGAWA ?
OH... IT'S YUKIHITO!


...
AND THIS HERE'S A SIBERIAN DRUM THAT BRINGS TOGETHER ALL THE SPIRITS OF THE FOREST.

CREAK

CREAK
CREAK
CREAK


GRANDMA, YOU REALLY ARE A W--

SOMEBODY NAMED TANIGAWA!
MIYORI!, A CALL FOR YA.
OKAY!

I JUST THOUGHT, IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE HE MIGHT'VE CONTACTED YOU.
HE LEFT A NOTE SAYING "DON'T WORRY," BUT HOW COULD I NOT BE WORRIED?!
OKAY SURE...
I'LL LET YOU KNOW.
SO YUKIHITO'S A RUNAWAY WAY TO GO.
BEEP
OH! UM... IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
YUKIHITO HASN'T COME HOME SINCE THIS MORNING...
AND THEY SAY HE WASN'T IN SCHOOL TODAY.
WHAT?!
YUKIHITO?
OH, MIYORI? THIS IS YUKIHITO'S MOTHER.

PANT
PANT
PANT

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
I'M SUCH A STUPID IDIOT.
SO MUCH FOR SURPRISING HER
IT'LL SURE BE A SURPRISE WHEN THEY FIND MY DEAD BODY IN THIS PLACE.

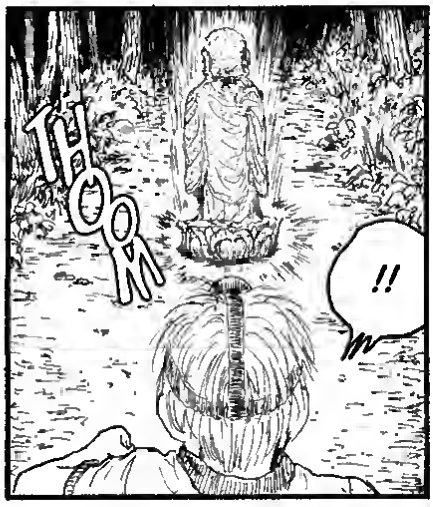
WHERE IN THE WORLD AM I?!
KRNCH
KRNCH
FUSH
WAH
OHH
AH!
YOU'VE POLLUTED MY SPRING, HAVEN'T YOU?!
WHA..?
YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN
OH, THANK GOD, I'M SAVED.
WATER! WATER!
MM
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
BETTER BOIL IT TO BE SAFE
FLOMP

LUNGE
Yikes!
RAAAH
DON'T THINK YOU'LL GET OUT OF THIS JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A CHILD!
GACK!
WAIT FOR ME!
FWUMP
SLIIIIDE
WHOA!
TRIP
SOME-BODY HE--
RNGH
RNGH
RNGH

WSSH
WSSH
!!

AH, DAMN IT!

IT'S A TRAIL!
WHICH WAY?!


THOK
!!

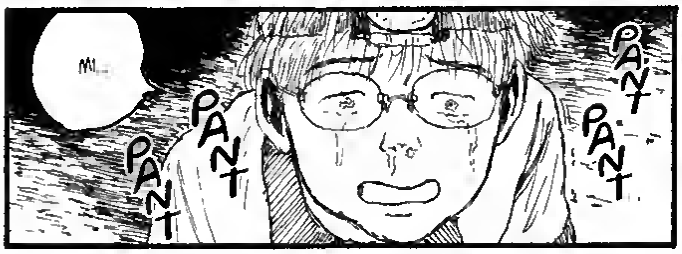
CRKK...

AHEEE

WSSH
...

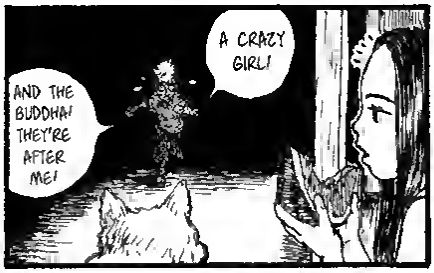
AAHHH
WSSH
WSSH

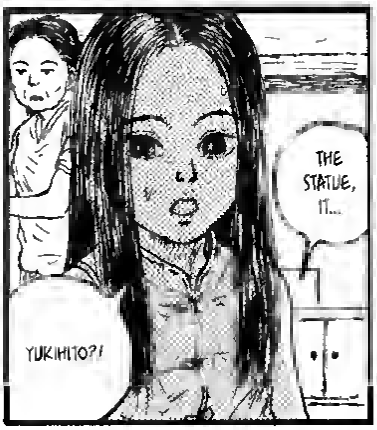
EEEEK
WSSH
WSSH

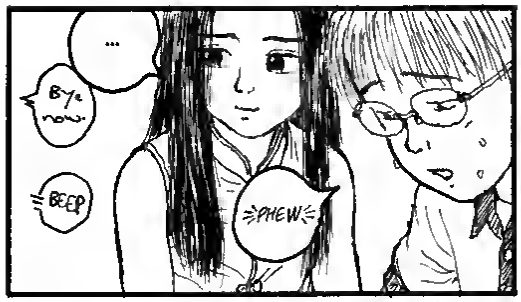

MI...
PANT
PANT
PANT

AH!
A LIGHT!

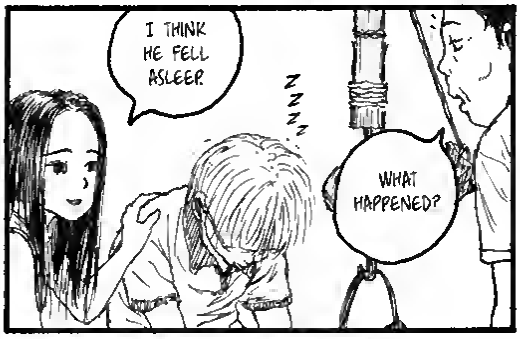
MIYORI!!
EW, YOU'RE FILTHY!
HE HE HE
I WAS SO SCARED!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

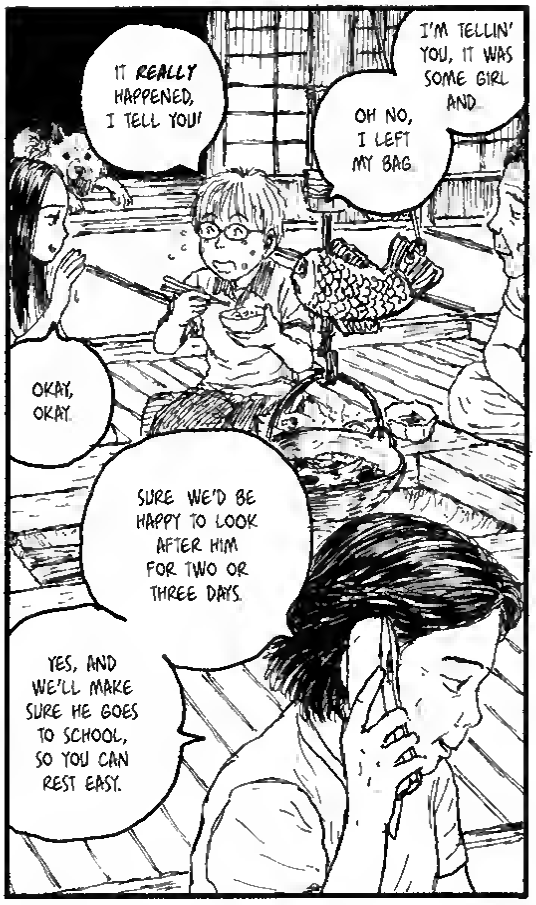

A CRAZY GIRL!
AND THE BUDDHA! THEY'RE AFTER ME!

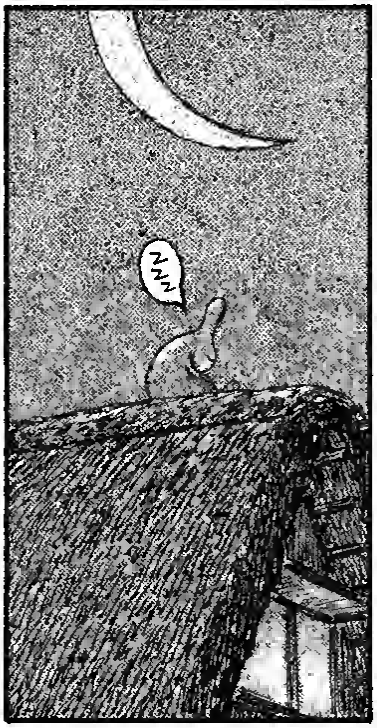

THE STATUE, IT...
YUKIHITO?!


...
BYE~
BEEP
PHEW

YUKIHITO?
DROP

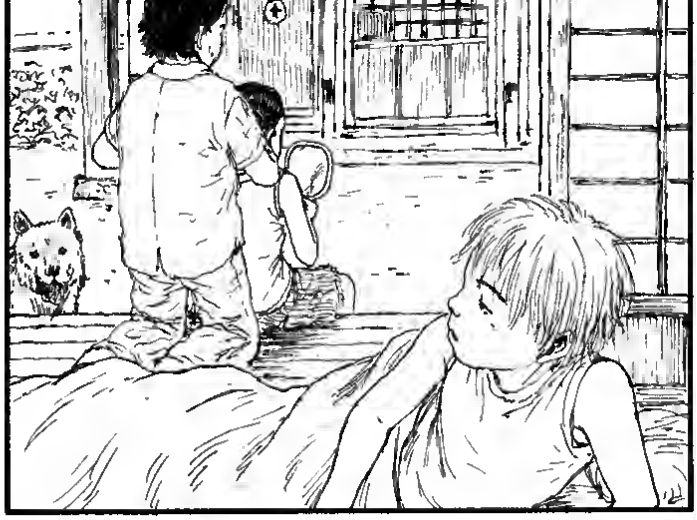

I THINK HE FELL ASLEEP.
ZZZZ
WHAT HAPPENED?


IT REALLY HAPPENED, I TELL YOU!
I'M TELLIN' YOU, IT WAS SOME GIRL AND...
OH NO, I LEFT MY BAG...
OKAY, OKAY.
SURE WE'D BE HAPPY TO LOOK AFTER HIM FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS.
YES, AND WE'LL MAKE SURE HE GOES TO SCHOOL, SO YOU CAN REST EASY.

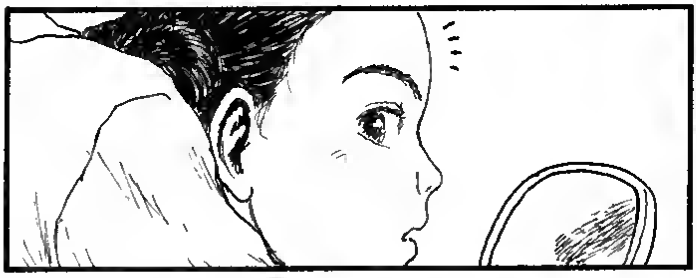

ZZZ

slump
HEY...

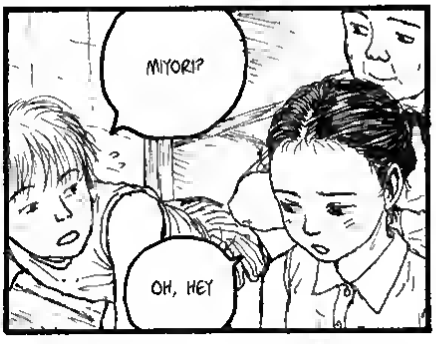
MUSTA BEEN EXHAUSTED
HAHA, WELL, HE CAN RELAX NOW.



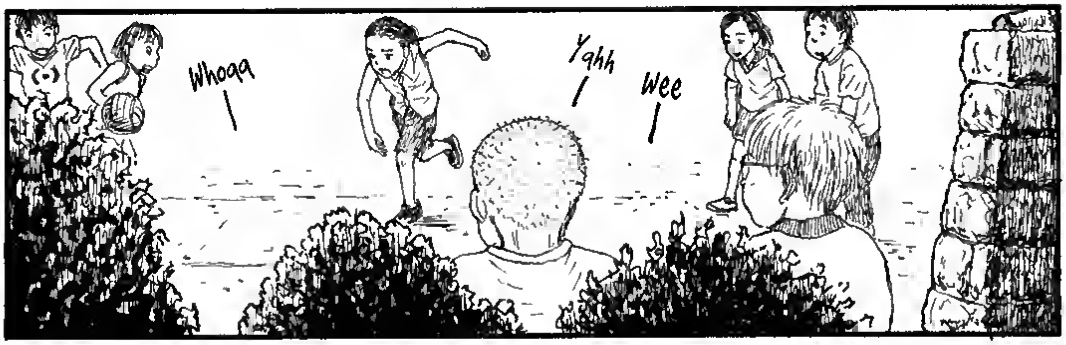
HOW'S THIS LOOK?
MM... YEAH.

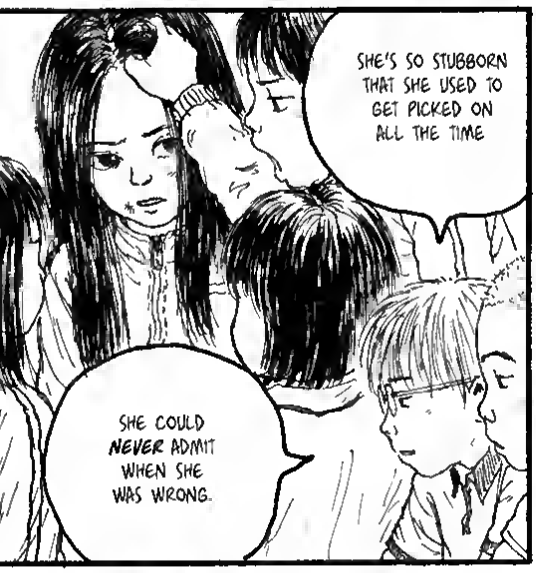


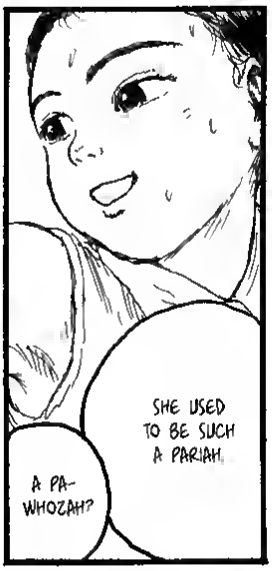
IT'S LIKE LOOKING AT A DIFFERENT PERSON
IT'S JUST EASIER TO DEAL WITH THIS WAY

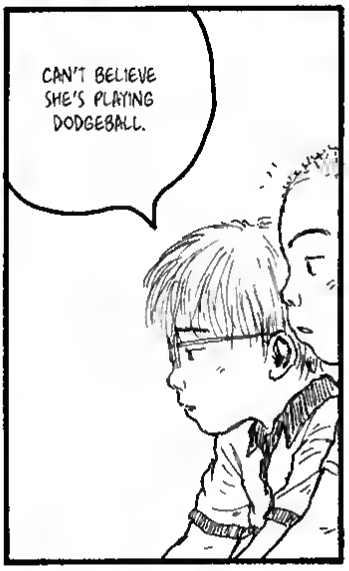

MIYORI?
OH, HEY

HOW LONG'LL YOU BE AROUND?
DID YOU MOVE HERE, TOO?
I'LL BET HE'S A GENIUS.
YOU ONE OF THEM SMART KIDS?
LOOKS SMART.
THAT YOUR BOYFRIEND, MIYORI?


Whoaa
Yahh
Wee

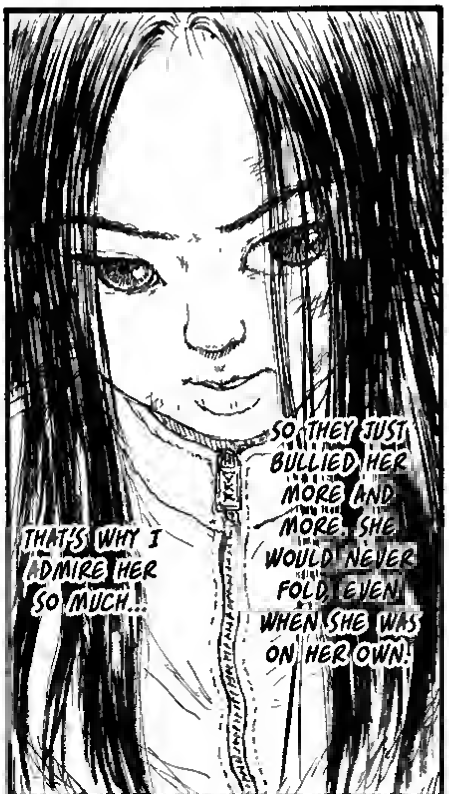

SHE'S SO STUBBORN THAT SHE USED TO GET PICKED ON ALL THE TIME
SHE COULD NEVER ADMIT WHEN SHE WAS WRONG.

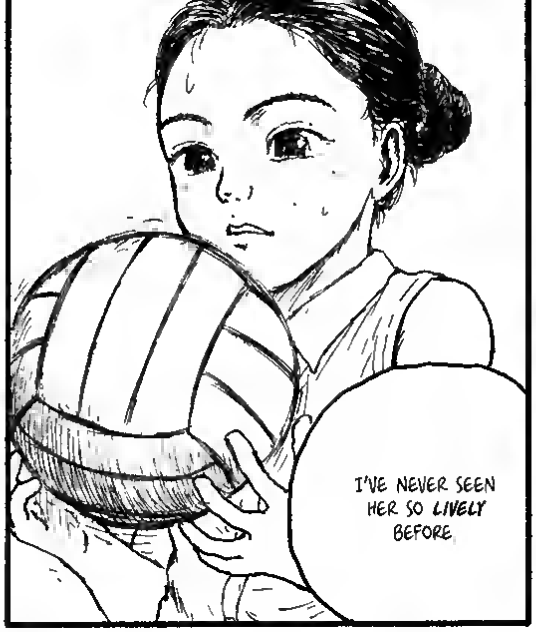

SHE USED TO BE SUCH A PARIAH.
A PA-WHOZAH?

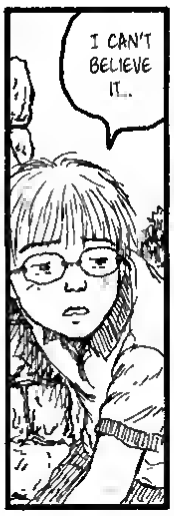

CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S PLAYING DODGEBALL.

WELL, I.. I.

WELL, WHAT WERE YOU DOING, THEN?
HUH?

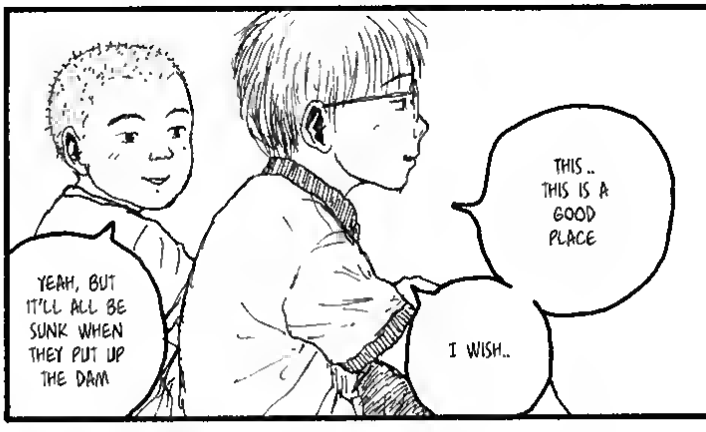

THAT'S WHY I ADMIRE HER SO MUCH!!
SO THEY JUST BULLIED HER MORE AND MORE. SHE WOULD NEVER FOLD, EVEN WHEN SHE WAS ON HER OWN!


I'VE NEVER SEEN HER SO LIVELY BEFORE

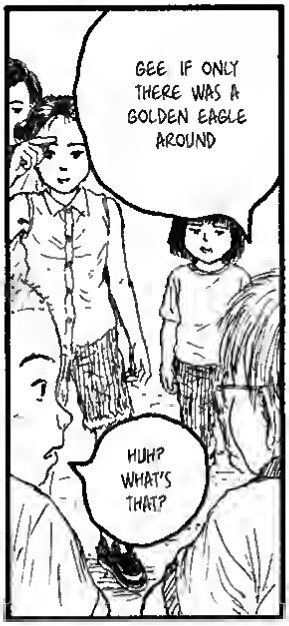

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT..

I'M SUCH A CHICKEN! I DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE!
BAM BAM
HEY, STOP!

WHAT, REALLY?
WELL, THAT OR THEY'LL DEMOLISH IT ALL FIRST.

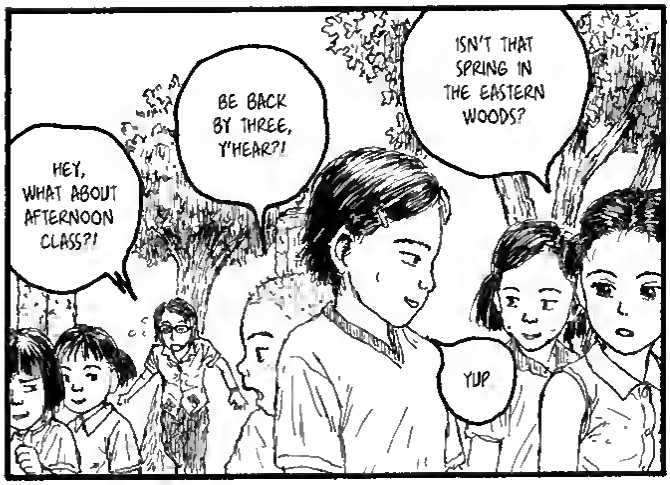

THIS.. THIS IS A GOOD PLACE
I WISH..
YEAH, BUT IT'LL ALL BE SUNK WHEN THEY PUT UP THE DAM

WHAT, YOU DON'T KNOW?
A GOLDEN WHAT?


GEE IF ONLY THERE WAS A GOLDEN EAGLE AROUND
HUH? WHAT'S THAT?

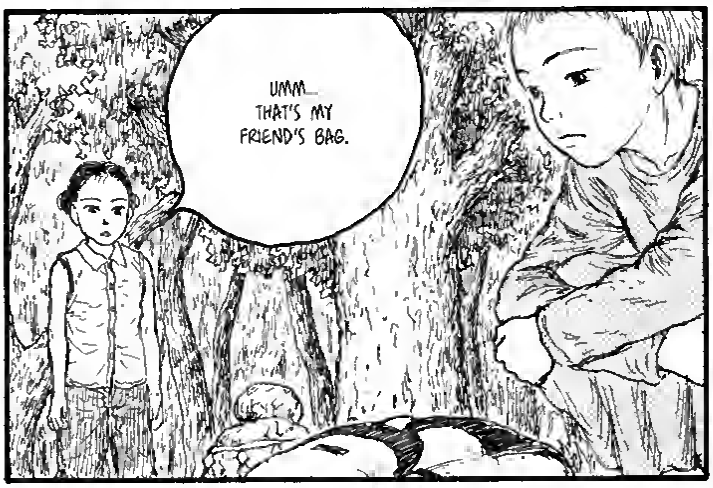
Sign: Geography (left) / Science (right)

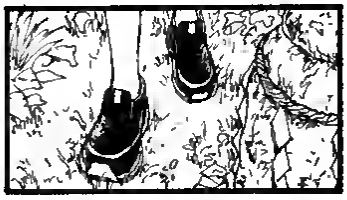
Flyer: We Are Searching for the Golden Eagle / The golden eagle is Japan's...

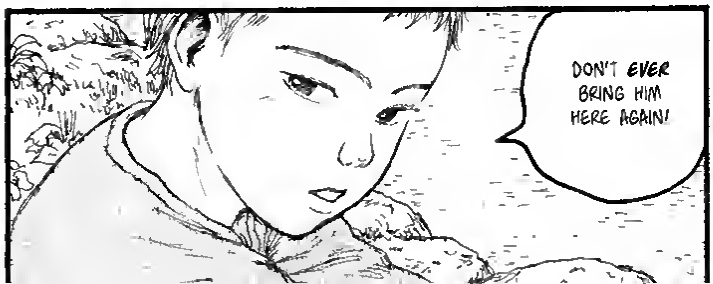

HEY, WHAT ABOUT AFTERNOON CLASS?!
BE BACK BY THREE, Y'HEAR?!
ISN'T THAT SPRING IN THE EASTERN WOODS?
YUP

FIRST AND SECOND, YOU SPREAD THESE FLIERS AROUND THE VILLAGE
FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADERS, TAKE THE EASTERN WOODS. THIRD AND FOURTH, YOU TAKE THE WEST

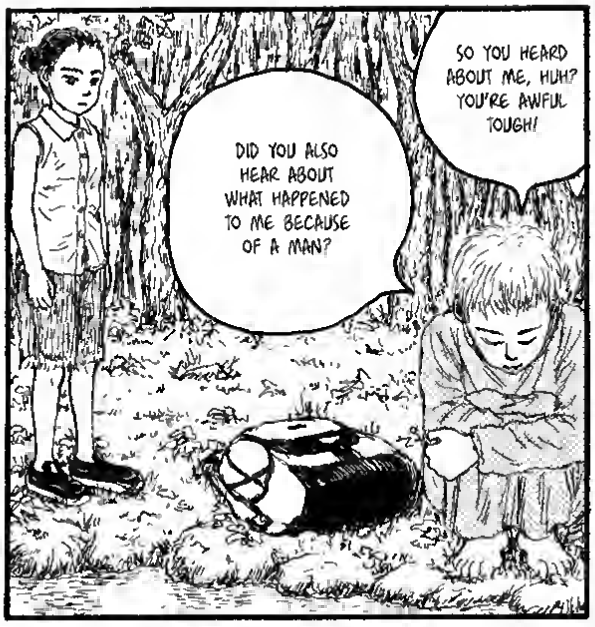
...


UMM... THAT'S MY FRIEND'S BAG.

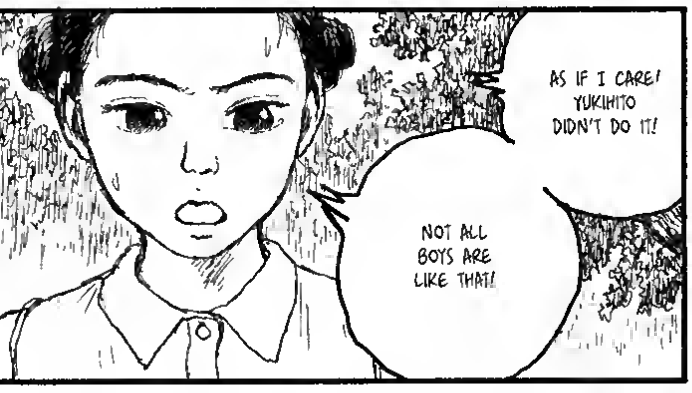


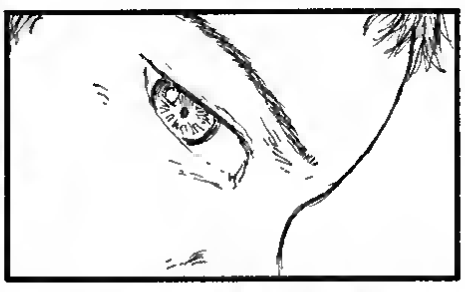

DON'T EVER BRING HIM HERE AGAIN!

DING


SO YOU HEARD ABOUT ME, HUH? YOU'RE AWFUL TOUGH!
DID YOU ALSO HEAR ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME BECAUSE OF A MAN?

HEY, DID YUKIHITO DO SOMETHING?
YOU CAN'T JUST HATE ON HIM FOR BEING A MALE! HE'S ONLY A KID!


AS IF I CARE! YUKIHITO DIDN'T DO IT!
NOT ALL BOYS ARE LIKE THAT!

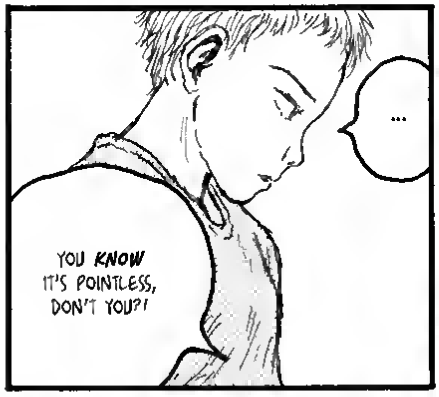


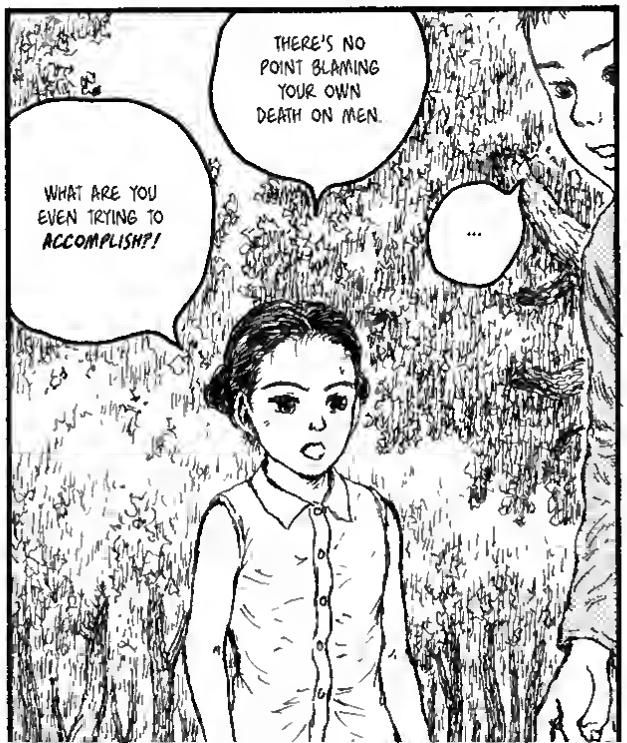
...

YOU'RE JUST A STUPID CHILD, WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!?

IF YOU THINK IT'S WORTH DYING OVER ONE BOY LEAVING YOU, YOU'RE JUST AN IDIOT!
EVEN A KID KNOWS THAT THERE ARE GOOD PEOPLE AND AWFUL PEOPLE!

WELL, MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GIVE IT UP EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE WRONG!
NOW YOU'RE JUST BITTER BECAUSE YOU'RE STILL STUCK HERE!


...
YOU *KNOW* IT'S POINTLESS, DON'T YOU?!

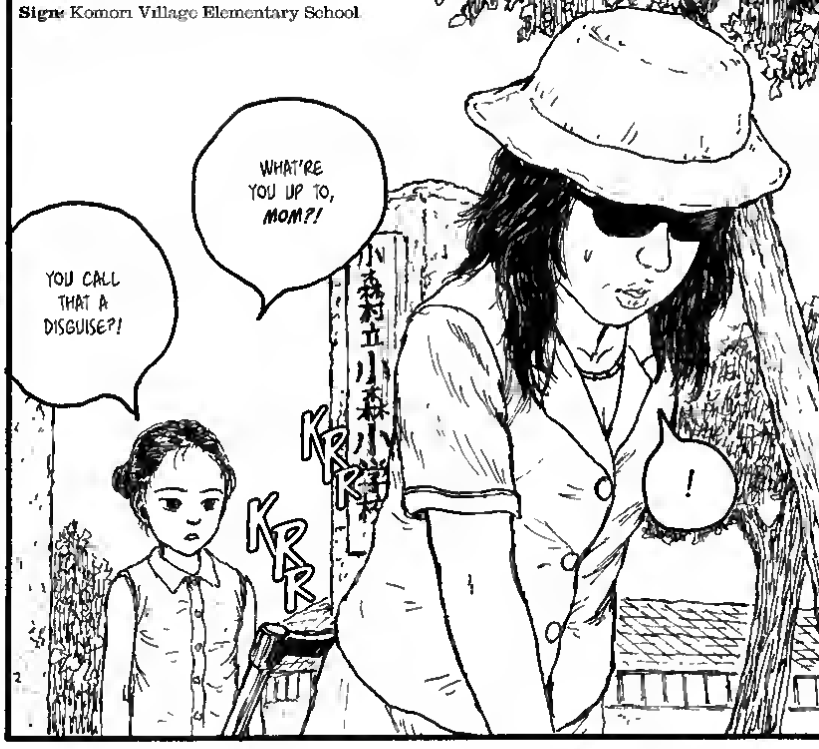

THERE'S NO POINT BLAMING YOUR OWN DEATH ON MEN.
...
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TRYING TO *ACCOMPLISH*?!

I WAS ABANDONED TOO, Y'KNOW! BY MY MOM!
AND MY DAD, TOO!
JUST TAKE IT AND GO AWAY.
...
THE IDEA OF DYING OVER ANOTHER PERSON!
DYING TO GET BACK AT SOMEONE!
IT'S WEAK IDIOTS LIKE THAT WHO I HATE THE MOST!
Hey! Nice going!
CLAP CLAP
PANT
PANT
WHAT'S WITH HER?
PANT PANT PANT
...
CLAP
GRR

DIDN'T SHE COME AFTER YOU?
ARE YOU OKAY?
pant pant
WOW
FLOP
OH, MIYORI
...
GRAMPA'S NEVER SEEN ONE EITHER
SO? HOW'S IT GOING?
REALLY? SO WE'RE OUT OF LUCK?
THAT SPRING... ALL OF IT'S GONNA BE SWALLOWED UP BY THE DAM
THIS SCHOOLHOUSE

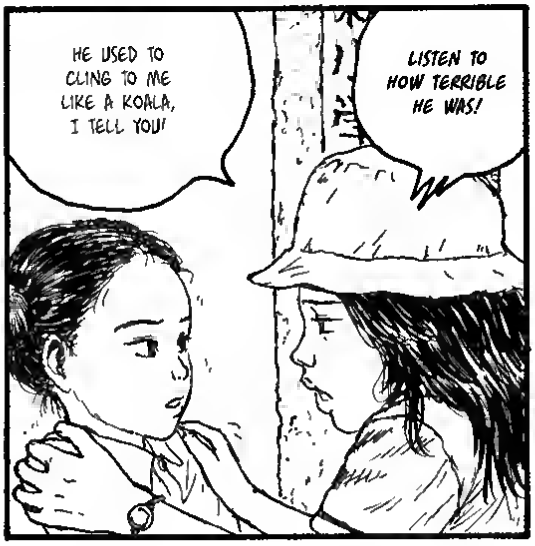
I'LL BET IT'S ONE OF THE DAM PEOPLE.
NO WAY! IT'S A RUSSIAN SPY LADY.
OH...
MAYBE IT'S A SNIPER FROM THE CIA
IT'S AN ASSASSIN!
NO, IT'S...
MIYORI!
THERE'S A WEIRD LADY HIDING BY THE GATE...
...
A-WHAT NOW?
THINK
THE SYNDICATE PEOPLE ARE HERE TO OFF YOU!
WE GOTS TROUBLE!
MR. KURODA!
SCHLK
MR. KURODA, STAY ALIVE! DON'T YOU DIE NOW!
HUH?!
MR KURODA, YOU CAN ESCAPE THROUGH THE BACK!
HWAH?

MIYORI, HEY...


WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, MOM?!
YOU CALL THAT A DISGUISE?!
KRRR
KRR
!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THAT'S AN ODD CHOICE FOR YOU...
AND DID YOU GET DARKER? NO GOOD FOR YOUR SKIN, Y'KNOW

WHAT'S WITH YOUR HAIR?
SLAP


HE USED TO CLING TO ME LIKE A KOALA, I TELL YOU!
LISTEN TO HOW TERRIBLE HE WAS!

OH-HO-HO, YOU WERE DUMPED?!
N-NO! IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND!

...

I WAS SO DISAPPOINTED! AFTER I DITCHED MY HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER FOR--
MAMA, PLEEEASE?
BUT THEN HE TURNED OUT TO BE A TOTAL MOMMA'S BOY, SNEAKING OFF AND ASKING HER FOR MONEY EVERY TIME HE WENT BROKE...
OH..
...
AND?
WHAT NOW? YOU GONNA GO BACK TO DAD?
MIYORI, I'M SOOO SORRY! YOU'RE ALL I HAVE NOW!
...
OHH, WHY'D I HAVE TO MEET A PERSON LIKE HIM?
AREN'T THERE ANY REAL MEN LEFT IN THE WORLD?

M-MIYORI
DON'T TREAT ME LIKE AN IDIOT!
WHAM
MIYORI!
KRR
KRR
MIYORI!!, WAIIT!
KRR
KRR
Golden Eagle Search Patrol / End